

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

NEW SERIES.

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No. 373.—VOL. 1.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1862.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED, 4D.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

To judge by the last news from America, and by the "hedging" tone assumed in their latest articles by well-informed English journals which hitherto have been inclined to lean with favour towards the South—to judge by all the most recent facts and indications—it would appear that the North is now really gaining the day, and that, if its success

proves at all durable, we shall before long hear of overtures of peace being made. Indeed, some writers are already occupied in devising a system of government for the Secessionists after their utter defeat by the North. The "United," after becoming the "Disunited," are then to be made into the "Reunited" States; and as the reunion will have been effected by force, it is not to be expected that it can be accom-

panied by any restoration of political liberty. We are told that the South will have to be ruled much as the kingdom of Poland is ruled by Russia, or Venetia by Austria, and as conquered nations are ruled everywhere by their conquerors. Perhaps no other system of government will be possible, and for that very reason we may be sure that the Southerners, even now, will not submit very readily, and that, if they must



"PAST AND PRESENT."—(FROM A DRAWING BY J. F. PASQUIER.)

give in, they will not do so until they are utterly unable to hold out any longer.

But the probable approaching termination of the American civil war, with the conversion of the Secessionist States into military "Governments;" the certainty that another English vessel (the *Bermuda*) has been seized by the Federalist cruisers; the chances of Mr. Disraeli forming a coalition sufficiently powerful to upset the existing Cabinet, and of the Conservative party gaining the confidence of the country by promising to carry on the Government on Manchester principles; the relative merits of the members of the two Houses of Parliament as riflemen, and the betting on the Lord Chancellor as against the Speaker and on the Speaker as against the Lord Chancellor; all these either important or at least interesting subjects are among our "Topics of the Day," and yet the great subject of conversation appears still to be the International Exhibition, which, now that the half-crown days have commenced, is more crowded than ever. Thanks to the magnificence and infinite variety of the objects exhibited, and to the impression of immensity that one receives on entering the body of the building—thanks too, above all, to the unprecedentedly fine collection of pictures which fills the endless gallery that surrounds it—the public seem inclined now to forget the unsightliness of Captain Fowke's architecture and the general shortcomings of the commissioners. The International Exhibition, for a symbol of universal peace, which it is generally declared to be, has caused a considerable amount of bad feeling and quarrelling; and hitherto no sooner has one complaint against the commissioners been disposed of than another has forthwith made itself heard. First, they proved that they were no judges of architecture, or rather that they cared less about the architectural credit of the country than about obliging Captain Fowke; then they slighted Verdi, and allowed a slight to be put on Sterndale Bennett; and the last serious accusation against them is that, after borrowing the best pictures and statues in the country, they have suffered the writer of a handbook, sold with their express permission and sanction in the exhibition, to insult almost every one of the authors of those works. What a pleasant thing for a painter or sculptor of high reputation, when he has intrusted his best productions to the care of the exhibition commissioners, to be told authoritatively by their recognised critic, for the benefit of a million visitors, that his supposed masterpieces are rubbish, and that he himself, instead of being a man of some merit in his profession, is completely ignorant of the first principles of his art! However, the semi-official handbook is now withdrawn, and the commissioners are once more at peace with that considerable portion of civilised mankind which takes an interest in the International Exhibition.

Next to the International Exhibition itself, what seems to occupy the public mind more than anything else just now is the opinion formed by foreigners of Great Britain generally. Every day letters are sent off from London to a certain number of foreign journals (whose correspondents, by-the-way, do not seem to have been uniformly well treated by the commissioners in the matter of free admissions), and the most remarkable of these letters, or at least of those published in France and Belgium, are translated and republished a few days afterwards in the Parisian correspondence of the *Times*. On the whole, our foreign literary visitors seem to think more of Leicester-square than of all the rest of London put together. We do not mean to say that they admire it more, but that they pay more attention to it. Some foreigners coming to London for the first time would like to see what sort of thing a Parliamentary debate is; how proceedings are carried on in our law courts; whether our parks and public gardens are worthy of the praise generally accorded to them; or, supposing amusements by gaslight be alone worthy of notice, if our opera and theatres possess any merit. What, however, chiefly attracts the attention of the French *feuilletonistes* is the life of dissipation led by the most corrupt portion of our London population in that particular district of which the French colony of Leicester-square forms almost the centre, and which in its very vices is more French than English. One goes to an exhibition of poses plastiques, where he admits that he met no English gentlemen; another wanders up and down the Haymarket; a third, of a more adventurous disposition, but who is apparently determined to remain in the one atmosphere congenial to him, extends his observations as far as Cremorne Gardens. A few make sensible remarks on English life in a general sense, and understand it whenever they really try to do so, for there is no mystery about it. But the great majority arrive with prejudices which they are evidently determined to take away with them, and of which the most deceptive is—in so far that it blinds them to all that is truly remarkable in our metropolis—that nothing English can be good except in so far as it resembles what is French. If a Frenchman comes to London and looks out for magnificent cafés in which he can get a *démie-tasse* for fourpence and a score of journals and reviews for nothing; if he seeks the Boulevard des Italiens in Regent-street and Vachette's or the Trois Frères at the Albion or the Divan; if he expects to find magnificent quays on the banks of the Thames, where every one knows that quays do not exist, and elegance at Cremorne Gardens, which are chiefly patronised by persons who are either vulgar or vicious (in a country where vice, however prevalent, is never fashionable); then our French visitor has clearly nothing to learn in London, and had better have remained in his native Paris, the ghost of which haunts him wherever he goes. If an Englishman were to travel all over Paris in search of magnificent clubhouses such as the Pall-mall, or for steamers such as do not carry passengers at a penny a head along the Seine, or for Hyde Park, where only

the garden of the Tuileries exists, he would then be pursuing just such an absurd line of conduct as those French journalists who, though they seem to live almost entirely in the French quarter of London, complain, nevertheless, with much bitterness, that London, after all, is not Paris.

"PAST AND PRESENT."

BUT for that tendency in human affairs to move in a series of circles, each intersecting another at some definite point, it would seem that the picture before us indicated an inevitable contrast between fashions which could never again be merged into even the shadow of resemblance. The ladies who have followed the ancient housekeeper into that almost forgotten room where the old oak cabinet, the heavy, cumbersome beams of the ceiling, and the rough flooring, revealing the movable trap, have their fittings ringed in the heavy furniture, are surely far enough removed, both in costume and in sympathy, from that dame whose portrait hangs upon the wall—as far removed as are their own elegant *cartes de visite* from the grim representation of that stiff figure in whose plain, unyielding skirts no breadth of crinoline preserves an amplitude of flounce and trimming. Their cavalier, he of the "Dundreary" aspect, seems as likely to adopt the heavy armour of the figure which stands solidly spectral, glancing furtively through that closed visor which might perhaps only contain a skull, as they are to verge towards that close ungraceful cap, that stiff, unwieldy ruff; and yet—so strangely do modes of dress repeat themselves—they have already adopted a modification of the sleeve, a faint resuscitation of the jacket. Who knows? They may yet, by alterations in the shape and mode of wearing the bonnet, by a violent reaction from hoops and furbelows, assimilate to the representative of aristocracy in 1580, and wonder at their own appearance exciting either levity or rude remark, as the old housekeeper, who has come to feel a sort of reverence for these old pictures of an older race, wonders what the next fashions for fine ladies will be as she conducts them through doorways a world too narrow for the free ingress of whalebone and iron.

To illustrate this strange mutability of fashion it may be remarked that of all the party the little boy is the least incongruous in relation to the relics of that bygone time. Something there is in his dress which shows, beside the grim knight and rueful lady, a gleam of that return to the costumes of an earlier era. Even the dog, which is of a newly invented breed, is farther from its surrounding objects than he in point of time and fashion.

We may have regarded the picture itself in an aspect different from that intended by the painter, but this will at least have proved that there is not wanting in it that great attribute which belongs alone to the works of the true artist—the power of suggestion which gives the scene depicted a lifelike interest.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Said Pacha, Viceroy of Egypt, has arrived in Paris and been lodged at the Tuileries.

The main theme of debate in Paris is the Mexican expedition, and the course taken by the Emperor or his representatives is almost universally condemned. The expedition is exceedingly unpopular, and this feeling is not confined to the French public, but is largely participated in by the army. Finding that they have got into an awkward position in regard to the Mexican affair, the majority of the journals are very indignant against England, whom they accuse of treachery and desertion of their French allies after inveigling them into the affair. They also describe the defection of General Prim to the influence of the English. Several French corps have received orders to hold themselves in readiness to start for Mexico.

The *Moniteur* of Wednesday contains the promulgation of a convention just concluded between England and France to regulate the situation of commercial, industrial, and financial companies in the respective States and possessions of both Powers. The convention, which bears date the 30th of April last, secures to all companies and associations instituted and authorised in either of the two countries according to its regular forms the faculty of exercising all their rights and pursuing their legal claims through the States and possessions of the other Power without any condition beyond that of conforming to its laws.

ITALY.

A discovery has been made of an expedition being in course of organisation at Brescia and Bergamo for the purpose of invading the Austrian territory, the Tyrol being understood to have been the point where the attempt was to have been made. The official *Gazette* of Turin of the 16th instant has the following on the subject:—

A discovery has been made of a projected attempt to send an expedition over the Italian frontier. Several officers of the old Garibaldian army, presumed to be the chiefs of the conspiracy, have been arrested. Altogether 100 persons have been arrested belonging to different communes in the neighbourhood of Brescia. Yesterday the populace attempted to set the prisoners at liberty. The guard resisted the attempt by force; three persons were wounded and one killed. At Bergamo a popular demonstration was pacifically suppressed. The Minister of the Interior, in a circular addressed to the Prefects, states that he is firmly resolved to prevent any expeditions or manifestations of this kind, and calls upon the Prefects to support the Government, and to suppress, if necessary by armed force, such attempts, whereby the Italian cause is compromised.

The proposed expedition, it is said, was to have left the kingdom from three different points—Mount Stelvio, Ferrara, and the sea. Through the Stelvio pass they would communicate with the Upper Italian Tyrol, forming part of the Germanic Confederation. By Ferrara and the Adriatic they would have reached Venetia. The project is said to have greatly irritated King Victor Emmanuel as being calculated to compromise the Italian cause at a most critical and important moment. A Turin letter of the 17th says:—

Four Garibaldian chiefs, Nullo, Di Chitari, Pasquali, and Ambivel, have been arrested, in addition to Colonel Cattabene, who was previously in custody, and was implicated in the same conspiracy. Garibaldi has had the indiscretion to try to shelter all the prisoners under the safeguard of his own name; but however weak the Government may be, and however great the personal authority of that meritorious citizen, it was impossible that the course of the law should be stopped. It would have been an act of abdication on the part of the Government, a beginning of the reign of anarchy and of the disruption of the State. It was a painful necessity that compelled the garrison of the prison of Brescia to repulse the populace that attempted to liberate the prisoners, nor could it be done without having recourse to arms. That there were four victims, two killed and two wounded, is certainly not the fault of the soldiers, who are almost all Lombards, and love their country as well as any other men.

A despatch from Brescia announces that Austrian troops have occupied the line of Lago di Garda. The Turin papers state that these troops are fully provided with everything that is necessary for a campaign. The same papers assert that an order of the day had been issued urging the chasseurs to bravery, and declaring that the road to Milan has been opened to the Austrian army by the movement at Bergamo and Brescia.

PORTUGAL.

Some anti-tax riots have occurred in Oporto and the neighbourhood, in which the houses of the collectors were attacked and considerable damage was done. The disturbances have been suppressed, though not without recourse to the aid of the military.

PRUSSIA.

The Prussian Diet was opened on Monday by the Minister-President in a speech in which, in reference to the difference between the late Chambers and the Ministry, he said:—

The Government considers it its duty to engage your activity this Session no longer than will be necessary for the settlement of the most urgent affairs. The finances of the country continue to assume a more favourable aspect. It has not been found necessary at the close of the financial year to make use of the extraordinary credit for defraying the expense of the organisation of the army which had been granted in the Budget of 1861 from the public funds. The surplus in the revenue of this year has even exceeded the

requirements of the public service. His Majesty the King has determined, for the relief of the country, that the additional taxation should be levied on and after the 1st of July next. From the Budget for 1862 and 1863, which is to be submitted to you without delay, you will perceive that the decrease of income arising therefrom will be fully covered by provisional reductions in the military administration, by savings in the cost of the administration of the public debt, and by increased revenue; and that means for useful application to all departments of the public service are still available. The more detailed specification of the income and expenditure in the Budget, and the early presentation of the Budget for 1863, will afford ample testimony that the Government is ready to meet with willingness any practicable proposition of the representatives of the country. The necessary operations for a further regulation of the land tax have reached the first important stage towards completion by a central committee—that, namely, of a temporary establishment of the classification tariff. Repeated examinations have manifested the possibility of further savings of a temporary character being effected in the military expenditure. These reductions, however, in order not to injure the vital conditions of the organisation of the army, can only be continued until a new source of revenue is opened by the land tax. By this means the Government shows that it is ready and desirous to meet the objections raised in former Sessions, and is therefore justified in expecting that, in considering the arrangements and requirements of our military force, due provision may be made for the independence and security of the country, which depend upon the undiminished excellence of the army.

HESSE CASSEL.

The little constitutional war in Electoral Hesse still continues to augment in intensity. Austria, Prussia, and the Germanic Diet united in recommending the Elector to restore the constitution of 1831 with the amendments of 1849. This the Elector refused to do, Prussia sent a special envoy, General Willisen, to urge her views upon the Elector; General Willisen was insulted. Prussia then forwarded an ultimatum, demanding the dismissal of the Cassel Ministry within forty-eight hours; this, also, was refused, and Prussia has withdrawn her Minister and closed the Legation. So the matter stands now. What is to be done next with the contumacious Elector?

POLAND.

The act of closing the churches in Warsaw is likely to be repeated. The Archbishop has intimated his intention of resorting to that proceeding if the police continue their persecution of the people attending the sacred edifices. Arrests continue to be made in Warsaw on account of the singing of prohibited songs in the churches.

THE HERZEGOVINA.

The Montenegrins have taken Nikschin, with 800 men, 27 officers and 23 guns. The loss of the Montenegrins was 200; that of the Turks 500, besides prisoners. The citadel still holds out. The Montenegrins are said to have made a reconnaissance in the direction of Mostar.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

The Legislative Assembly of the Ionian Islands have hit on a new method of annoying, as they imagine, the English Government. The treaty under which the Seven Islands were put under British protection requires that England should maintain certain fortifications. It has been discovered that the protecting Power has violated her duty, and forfeited her right to hold the islands, by abolishing some of those fortifications and erecting others, against which high crime and misdemeanour the Assembly sends a protest, to be transmitted to the Queen through the Governor. No doubt the Assembly chuckled over this profound discovery, and considered it a capital means of annoyance. But they have met with their match in Sir Henry Storks. The Governor reminds the Assembly that it owes its existence to the constitutional charter, that that charter prescribes only one way for the Assembly to address the English Crown, and, as they have not in this instance taken that way, he quietly hands them back their protest.

KING VICTOR EMMANUEL IN NAPLES.

IN our Numbers of the 3rd and 10th inst. we gave some details of the reception of King Victor Emmanuel in his Neapolitan dominions. Since his arrival in the south his Majesty's life has been one continued ovation. He has visited Sicily, where he met with a reception in all respects as warm as that accorded to him in Naples; and on his return to the latter city the public enthusiasm, instead of having spent itself and diminished, was more fervid than ever. Ultramontane journals, both in England and on the Continent, affect to believe that the enthusiasm of the Sicilians and Neapolitans was the result not of spontaneous feeling but of the bribes and coercion of the police; but reliable witnesses on the spot declare that such an idea is altogether preposterous. There were no official promptings or suggestions—no influence whatever used; the whole demonstration was a spontaneous outburst of popular sentiment, and a distinct declaration that the people of Southern Italy were as bent on obtaining national unity under the sway of the "Re Galantuomo" as the other portions of the country. A co-correspondent, writing on the 4th of May, immediately after his Majesty's arrival, says:—

"In London I suppose there is plenty of noise just now, by day, especially in the neighbourhood of Brompton and Kensington; but night brings you silence and sleep. Now, here at Naples, day and night it is always the same thing—rest and sleep are quite out of the question. At dawn begins the row. The gathering of the lazzaroni; the country people hastening to the market from Portici, Resina, or Pozzuoli; the corricolo rattling at a fearful speed amidst clouds of dust; the Carrozze driving up and down Toledo and Chiaia—all this form the first act of the play. About noon begin the processions of the guilds, the review of the National Guard or of the garrison, the official receptions, the visit of the King to the hospitals or to the museums. Little time is allowed to eat your dinner, but not to eat it in peace, for you have plenty of shouting in the street, plenty of guitar in the very room of the hotel where you are eating your dish of macaroni. The dinner over, the promenade at the Villa and at Chiaia begin. But what a promenade! The noise which pierced the ears of Dante when he entered the first circle of the "Inferno" was nothing to the noise the Neapolitan makes. Woe to you if by chance Victor Emmanuel is passing! The roar is so tremendous that I think the very statues of the villa must be deafened by it. But the sun is setting behind the charming chain of mountains which encircle this enchanted gulf. The time for illumination is come. The theatres are thronged; to walk through the Toledo or the Margellina is almost impossible. At last the hour of midnight strikes on the tower clock; you are panting for rest, but there is no rest at Naples. Bands of music are playing here and there; hundreds of idle fellows are walking up and down the streets; the shouts of 'Long live Victor Emmanuel!' rend the air as they did during the whole of the day.

The King has laid the first stone of a new port for Naples, the present harbour being utterly insufficient to accommodate the constantly-increasing fleet of merchant-vessels which are resorting to it. A Naples letter says that a mole will be constructed stretching from what is called the Granatello, on the road to Portici, towards the Immacolatella, or the new lighthouse, where the entrance of the new harbour will be. The time needed for its construction is calculated at nine years, and the expenditure at 15,000,000 lire. Schemes are also afoot for the construction of railways in the south of Italy, and for the development of the resources of that portion of the kingdom generally.

His Majesty left Naples on Wednesday night, on his return to Turin. Prince Napoleon has left Naples on his return to France.

Our Illustration portrays the scene presented in the Gulf of Naples on the King's arrival there, some details regarding which will be found in the ILLUSTRATED TIMES of the 10th inst.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.—His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales arrived at Constantinople on Tuesday. The Turkish fleet saluted and manned yards. The Grand Vizier and the Captain Pacha immediately went on board the Prince's vessel. The Prince landed at the Imperial Palace, on the steps of which he was received by the Sultan. Court carriages and an escort were in waiting and conveyed his Royal Highness to the British Embassy. The Sultan returned the Prince's visit within an hour.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

The Persia, which left New York on the 6th inst., brings the important news that the Confederates have evacuated Yorktown, and that, pursued by General McClellan, their rear-guard has been defeated at Williamsburg, which place is occupied by the Federal troops. The evacuation of Yorktown was, it is said, resolved upon at a council of war held on the 30th of April, at which Jefferson Davis was present. Every General in attendance except Magruder appears to have agreed that evacuation was advisable. The evacuation was commenced on the 2nd inst., and completed by the night of the 3rd. When General McClellan discovered that the enemy had retreated, he dispatched General Hancock in pursuit, who, coming up with the Confederates at Williamsburg, defeated them, and captured two redoubts. Subsequently the Confederates evacuated the place. General McClellan, in his despatch announcing these facts, says there will have to be more battles fought before Richmond is reached. Another important fact is that the Federal gun-boats have reached West Point, which is within thirty miles of Richmond, and where a division of 20,000 men is to be landed. The Confederate position at Yorktown appears to have been a very strong one, and well provided with warlike stores, large quantities of which were left behind. The movements of the French Ambassador were very mysterious. He is said to have returned to Yorktown on the 4th, the very day the Confederates were quitting it.

The occupation of Baton Rouge by the Federals, and the landing of the forces of General Butler at New Orleans, are confirmed. Mr. Seward has informed the Foreign Ministers that Federal mails will now be allowed to pass to New Orleans and other ports lately occupied by the Confederates, and that preparations were making to modify the blockade so as to permit limited shipments to be made to or from New Orleans and one or two other ports now closed by the blockade. Union demonstrations have been made at New Orleans.

The Nashville is mentioned again in the telegram as having run the blockade at Wilmington with a cargo of gunpowder and army stores.

The Mississippi is now clear for the Federals from New Orleans to Memphis. The people of the towns along the banks of the river are retiring inland, destroying every article of their property. It is stated that from New Orleans to Memphis there is a general bonfire of property, particularly cotton. In New Orleans alone the value of the cotton and shipping destroyed by the Confederates is estimated at 8,000,000 dols. to 10,000,000 dols.

Nothing definite was known as to the movements of the armies of Generals Halleck and Beauregard in the West, but it was expected that important measures would shortly be reported from that quarter.

THE MEXICAN INTERVENTION.

The intelligence from Mexico confirms the withdrawal of England and Spain from the Mexican expedition. General Prim maintained that the London convention did not authorise the attitude taken by France, and that the Allies had no right to force any form of government on the Mexicans; and, as he considered the resolve of France not to continue treating with the Juarez Government was a breach of the treaty and equivalent to a declaration of war on Mexico, he decided on withdrawing his forces. This he did, and the British marines were also withdrawn. According to the last advices, the French representatives on April 16 issued a declaration of war against the Juarez Government, and active operations had been commenced. The French had occupied Orizaba, and were advancing on the city of Mexico. They had captured a small fort. The reasons given by the French representatives for the course they have taken are—the declaration of war by Juarez, the assassination of several French soldiers, annoyance caused by Juarez, and the entire interception of all kinds of food. Almonde had issued a proclamation in approval of foreign intervention.

In the sitting of the Spanish Cortes, on Monday, Senor Castro made a long speech in support of a proposition to censure the Ministry for their conduct in reference to Mexican affairs. The Minister of State, in defending the Government, said that they approved the conduct of General Prim, the Spanish Plenipotentiary. He promised that an opportunity should be afforded for a full discussion of the question after the official documents had been examined. These documents, he said, would be communicated to the Cortes at the proper time. Senor Castro then withdrew his proposition.

IRELAND.

THE FOURTH DRAGOONS.—All the officers of the 4th Dragoon Guards were required to attend at the Adjutant-General's Office, Royal Hospital, Dublin, on Friday week. Colonel Bentinck has been allowed the option to retire from the service or go on half-pay; the other officers who signed the round-robin were severely reprimanded. Adjutant Harran is removed from the adjutancy, but not from the regiment; Major Jones's further promotion is stopped; and Lieutenant Rintoul is severely reprimanded for keeping a note-book in which he entered private and familiar conversations with his brother officers.

THE IRISH NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM.—It is asserted that a decree is now ready for promulgation on the part of the Roman Catholic Bishops forbidding national schoolmasters to enter the model schools of the national board under penalty of the displeasure of the "Church." Very recently, also, religious teaching by the Roman Catholic clergy at the training-schools has been strictly prohibited.

MORE MURDERS IN IRELAND.—Several more murders are reported from various parts of Ireland. John Herdman, Esq., one of the wealthiest and most respectable merchants of Belfast, was murdered within a hundred yards of his own house at Cliftonville last week. He was shot in his own grounds while with some guests whom he was entertaining. His cousin has been arrested as the murderer, and a cause for the crime is suggested in the fact that the deceased had induced the prisoner's mother to reduce his allowance in order to bring his expenditure to a lower level. The prisoner is said to have been given to habits of extravagance and dissipation.—Mr. Francis Fitzgerald, a landed proprietor, residing at Hill Cottage, Kilmallock, county Limerick, was shot on Friday afternoon on the high road, not far from his house, and while in company with his wife, to whom he was only recently married. Two men were concerned in the murder, one of whom was arrested and identified by Mrs. Fitzgerald amongst six or seven others who were brought before her. His name is Thomas Keckin, he is a returned convict, and was tried on a former occasion for a murder at Ballinahinch. It is stated that the second assassin has given himself up to the police, and intends offering himself as Queen's evidence, but it is probable the evidence will be so conclusive against both culprits that the Crown authorities will not deem it necessary to allow either of the assassins to escape by giving information against the other. It is believed that the murder is the result of an agrarian conspiracy.—On Saturday week Charles Wilgar, a lawyer, was murdered on his way home to his father's residence at Ballyleson, county Down, within about three miles from Belfast, by, it is supposed, a fellow-workman, who, after robbing the poor man of his watch, threw him into the River Lagan.—Mr. Richard Burke has been found "guilty" by a coroner's jury at Clonmel of poisoning his wife with strychnine. The case has excited much interest, as the accused has occupied a respectable position in society, and had been for ten years clerk to the Waterford Board of Guardians.

ANOTHER MILITARY SCANDAL.—A general court-martial assembled on Wednesday morning at the Royal Barracks, Dublin—the scene of the late inquiry—to investigate a charge brought against Mr. Paul Anthony, veterinary surgeon of the 11th Hussars. Colonel Philipotts, R.H.A., was the president. Major Darby, 86th Regiment, the Deputy Judge-Advocate, conducted the prosecution; and Mr. Tandy, barrister-at-law, instructed by Mr. Wm. Milward Jones, solicitor, defended the prisoner. The following are the charges:—For conduct unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman, and to the prejudice of good order and discipline, in the following instances:—First instance. In having grossly and publicly insulted Cornet Gentleson, of the 11th Hussars, on the night of the 29th of April, 1862, in the mess-room of Island-bridge Barracks, Dublin, by calling him "a liar and a scoundrel," or words to that effect. Second instance. In having, at or about the same time and place above mentioned, grossly and publicly insulted Cornet Dulacour, of the 11th Hussars, by striking him a blow on the face.

SCOTLAND.

BOILER EXPLOSION AND LOSS OF LIFE AT GREENOCK.—On Tuesday morning, about five minutes before six o'clock, the large boiler in Messrs. Scott and Co.'s shipbuilding establishment, Cardryke, exploded and killed a man named James Finnie, a bolt-screw, and seriously injured above a dozen men. The cause of the explosion is not yet fully explained; but the boiler, which is about 7 ft. in diameter, is rent from one end to the other below the top flue, and the discharge came out at both ends with a tremendous force, knocking down the walls at each end of the boiler-house. Most of the injured men were passing along the street to their work, when the explosion showered about them an immense quantity of hot water, stones, and other debris, with great force.

THE PROVINCES.

MURDER IN COVENTRY.—A man named Marston has been committed for trial at Coventry for the wilful murder of his child. On the 8th inst., according to his own confession, he took her to a pit, tied a stone to her waist with a piece of worsted, decorated her dress with wild flowers, and then, placing a few in her hand, threw the child into the water. Two years ago he married a widow who had two grown-up sons, and he does not seem to have lived on the most amicable terms with them. The prisoner, when brought before the magistrates, seemed utterly unconscious of the magnitude of the offence with which he was charged. He is a man of middle age, and has borne a good character up to this time.

HOP PROSPECTS IN KENT.—Hitherto, under the warm weather with which we have been favoured, the bine has grown amazingly fast; and the occasional cold days and nights we have experienced have not materially checked its advance. In most places it is said that the bine, which looks generally strong and healthy, is considerably more forward than usually occurs at this period of the season; and as yet there are but very small visitations of insect. In some late-dressed grounds the plant is infested with flea; but there is as yet hardly a fly to be found. In a few localities the great quantity of moisture with which the ground has been saturated has occasioned some of the bine to turn yellow and sickly, and at other places it comes platty. In the neighbourhood of Edenbridge generally the hop plantation is very uneven and platty. In some of the gardens the bine is strong and healthy, and growing fast; but in others a portion only of the bine is pretty good, and the remainder, where there is any plant at all, is very weakly, and cannot produce any hops under the most favourable circumstances.

DESPERATE POACHING AFFAIRS NEAR NOTTINGHAM.—During the past week the fishing preserves belonging to the Hon. Captain Byron, of Thrumpton Hall, about six miles from Nottingham, have been visited by poachers, and numerous depredations made. On Thursday night week the keeper and a policeman kept watch, and about two o'clock on Friday morning a body of poachers, numbering six or eight, were seen fishing with nets in the back waters of the Trent. After watching the men some time they went up to the poachers, who commenced throwing stones. The number and violence of the assailants were so great that the keeper and policeman were forced to conceal themselves behind trees, and allow the men to escape. About the same hour on Saturday morning last four or five men employed on the estate secreted themselves near the banks of the Trent. Four men soon made their appearance, one of them standing in the water near the bank. The watchers went up and a desperate fight ensued. One of the poachers, after receiving a severe wound on the head with a fork, was captured, and, after a further struggle, another of his companions was taken into custody. The other two jumped into the river, which at this part is very rapid and dangerous. Groans were heard from one of the men, who it is supposed was drowned, as there were indications on the opposite bank of only one person having landed. The two captured men were taken before the county magistrates at Nottingham, and were sent to prison for six weeks each in default of paying £2. Nothing has yet been heard of the other men.

STRIKE OF PITMEN.—The strike of pitmen in Nottinghamshire has extended from the Cinder Hill Pits to those of Kimberley and Newcastle in the same district belonging to Mr. T. North. A general open-air meeting of the men belonging to the three pits has been held, at which it was unanimously agreed that they should all demand the same advance as those of Cinder Hill had done, and discontinue their work until it was granted. Between 600 and 700 hands are therefore entirely without means of subsistence. At the meeting it was stated that the average amount earned by the hardest workers per day was 2s. 3d. If the proprietors would let them name a check-machine man, to be paid by themselves, and adopt the ordinary standard of weights, they would return to work.

TRADE OUTRAGE IN SHEFFIELD.—Sheffield has been again distinguished by one of those outrages for which it is, unluckily, becoming notorious. The other evening an attempt was made to blow up the premises of Messrs. Craven, builders. A can charged with combustible and explosive substances had been thrown into one of the workshops. Fortunately, the injury done was comparatively small.

FINE ARTS.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.—THIRD NOTICE.

In landscape-art the English painters have won a position very far above that attained in any of the schools of Europe. They paint from nature more sincerely and with less affectation of a scholastic manner than either the French, the Belgians, or the Germans. What is to be the future of landscape in the hands of the Americans it is difficult to say, except that there is a very decided evidence of a power which seems to combine the English fidelity to nature with an aptitude for painting on a very large scale the grandest scenes of the mountains, the rivers, and the forests—a faculty, no doubt, the result of living in a country where the landscape is generally on an immense scale and the aspects of nature are as picturesque as in the Old Country, but arrayed in a glory and grandeur perhaps never seen in England. There is one picture by an American painter in the exhibition—(223) "Autumn in the White Mountains," by Mr. J. F. Cropsey—which fairly exemplifies the style adopted by the American landscape-painters, though not their taste for large canvases. How it happens that there are no landscapes by so remarkable a painter as Mr. Church, and some one or two other students of landscape whose pictures have excited much interest in England, is a point that has generally escaped notice. That they would stand well amongst our landscapes we have not the least doubt, and the scenery would be a very acceptable change from the rather hackneyed ground we have so long been accustomed to, even from our foremost painters.

Mr. F. R. Lee, R.A., has this year only one Devonshire valley to offer (202), and he has shown his good taste and determination to continue those foreign views which he first began to paint last year. His "Gibraltar" of the present exhibition (657) is an extremely bold and naturally-painted picture, full of the native ruggedness and character of the place, although we are not disposed to accept the peculiar cold, grey tone of colour—which is the manner of the painter—as the glittering atmosphere that blazes for ever around this natural fortress. Otherwise, the forms of the huge rock are admirably well handled, and the general aspect of the scene is given in masterly style. Much the same good points and weaknesses of manner are noticeable in the large view of the "Pont du Gard" (250), an old Roman aqueduct near Nîmes. It is surprising that so keen an observer as Mr. Lee should not be aware that all his pictures have the same cold, grey, claylike appearance.

Mr. Creswick, R.A., appears to have given himself up to the painting of the most peaceful and homely spots, which he adorns with all the finish and suggestive beauty his art can confer. The question is whether so much sweetness in placid streams, bearing a mirrored landscape on their surface that cheats the thoughts into a reverie of dream-land, is not too much like the highly-flattered portrait of one's dear friend; whether a few wrinkles, and spots, and lines upon the face do not present us with a truer and more touching likeness. No. 58, "The Deserted Ferry," is a landscape treated in this way; and No. 105, "The River Tees at Rokeby," is full of the same elegant and, to a certain extent, poetic beauty. Here is the calm stream contrasted with the hot air teeming with the life of summer, and the agreeable suggestion of cool shade and repose is brought closer to the senses by the two thirsty dogs of the sportsman that have rushed panting to lap up the welcome draught. All this is good and most neatly painted, and there is a certain modesty about it which accords with Nature's beauty, but intellectually the *métier* is small. It is superior to the facile gaudiness which is the bane of several very popular landscape painters whom we will not name, but it does not point, in any sense, in the direction of the great achievements of Turner, Constable, and Muller. So far it must be viewed as the finality to which that feeling for landscape comes at last. But it is possible to paint with such a fidelity that it itself throws a charm of poetry over the picture. This, we think, is observable in the coast scenes of Mr. E. W. Cooke, A.R.A., particularly in No. 589, "The Bay of Tangier, Morocco," a picture of simple material—merely a felucca high and dry on the beach, with her curiously-painted sails and hull, mountains in the distance, with Gibraltar and the sea at ebb tide, with a number of figures touched in with wonderful feeling for picturesqueness and true character. Were it not that from the very grains of sand and sea-worm shells to the finest film of vapour floating in the sky, the genuine artist feeling were shown, the picture would be like a painted photograph, so near is the beautiful to the absolutely true. No. 659, "Sunset—Bay of Cartagena," is also an extremely fine picture. As we read Mr. Cooke's painting, his art leads him to go beyond mere accuracy of imitation, and impel him to stamp his work with the feeling of the moment. Other hands surpass his in minute imitation, as, for example, Mr.

John Brett, in No. 650, "Champéry," a work of the same microscopic construction as his "Val d'Aosta;" and others, perhaps, call up the impression of a fine scene more vividly by a dashing sketch; but it is rarely that such a combination of truth with genuine feeling is seen. Some curious examples of the desperate errors that await artists who will go into the one extreme or the other are to be seen in the exhibition. Besides Mr. Brett's mountains in miniature, there are pictures by Mr. Inchbold of the boldest parts of the wild Cornish coast, with a vast expanse of sea, yet painted with the timidity of one overpowered by the character of the scenery, and with the touch of an artist overcautious about trifles. Looking at these, one feels as Coleridge did when he first looked upon the falls of the Clyde in company with a silly person who used fine words without knowing it. Coleridge was at a loss for words to express his feelings, when his companion exclaimed, "How majestic!" but, before Coleridge could thank him for the expression, he added, "Yes; how very pretty!" The thought of these sublime scenes is changed into contempt for a picture that thrusts under the eye botanical specimens and nests of young sea-gulls. Even were such pictures as these painted, as is the common boast to say, "on the spot" (which they never are), it is impossible to put feeling into such embroidery of the brush. Mr. H. W. B. Davis attempts views of a less extensive kind in the same industrious-flea sort of spirit—No. 568, "Midsummer—Vallée de la Cluse, near Boulogne," being a picture admirable for the top of a Swiss snuffbox. Mr. J. T. Linnell must, we fear, be included in the same category for his picture, No. 577, "Haymakers," and Mr. Whistler's efforts in the same direction seem to us equally mistaken.

Mr. W. Gale bestows an amount of painting ability of a certain merit upon groups of figures introduced as a kind of subject into landscapes minutely stippled over and tormented into a very flagrant parody of the natural landscape, fitted with a sentiment as silly and mawkish as the forced and artificial manner assumed in 259, "Autumn"—alias an old man sitting under a shock of wheat, to which is appended a verse from Job, about coming to the grave in a full age—and 274, "The Sick Wife," a lady in the last stage of some terrible malady, with her husband and young family reclining on the seashore. Why not at once give us a portrait of Job as he appeared afflicted with an eruption?

Mr. B. W. Leader belongs to the class of which we have been speaking—the painters who will paint, as they see only, and not as they feel. No. 484, "Summer Time," shows us how completely the first sensation had vanished before the work of laborious brushwork could be done. The pictures by Mr. W. Linnell may be taken generally to represent the extravagance which comes of a taste confined only to the gorgeous aspects of nature—aspects that betray artists like the song of the syren. We may be assured that these glories are not to be seized in the direct manner that Mr. Linnell attempts in his large canvas, 431, "The Gleaners' Return," a work that is not the gleaners' return at all, but rather Mr. Linnell's display. The gleaners are there certainly, but hard to see in the dark mass of olive green hill; but then they were to be subservient to the general purpose of the work—that of producing a compendium of colour. Four-fifths of the canvas are covered with this olive-green and other sombre hues; the rest is filled with orange-coloured cloud, or, as some might suppose, wool. There is nothing of the purity of tint, nothing of brightness, and none of the aerial quality of sunset skies after all. Every artifice of forcing has been brought to bear, and yet to produce nothing but a piece of sensuous painting. There is a landscape on the floor near this large work, No. 424, "A Winter's Evening," by C. E. Johnson, a painter of course without high repute for colour, yet an infinitely more meritorious work of art; better felt, better understood, and better painted. By another painter of the same name, but easily distinguished by his taste for the misty effects of atmosphere, there is a work of considerable poetic character and good technical ability, No. 658, "The Acropolis of Athens, with Hymettus seen from the Slopes of the pass of Daphne."

Mr. G. H. Thomas's picture of "Rotten Row in the Season" (400) deserves to be mentioned among the landscapes for the excellent way in which the sunny dusty air of that notable resort of fashionable loungers has been thrown over a scene all moving with a crowd of figures capably hit off with all the airs of gait and dress. Mr. David Roberts's (R.A.) "Views of London on the Thames"—a series of pictures—have also much that is truly characteristic of the river that runs through the greatest and most smoky city in the world; and the various buildings and bridges are painted with the mastery that few hands ever attain, even after the devotion of as long a life as Mr. Roberts has so honourably spent upon his art.

Mr. Sidney Cooper, A.R.A., who never had a rival, unless it was Cuypp, in painting the comfortable classes of the rich pastures—the fat and idle ruminants of the Kent marshes and Leicestershire meadows—is really an admirable painter of landscape as well as cattle. We cannot exactly express our gratification at a repetition of snow pictures as the result of one great success, but his "Sunny Afternoon in Winter" (464) is certainly a most astonishing piece of nature painting in this particular genre.

Landscapes by Mr. Mogford, Mr. Oaks, Mr. Hulme, Mr. Percy, and Mr. Gilbert, may be included in a general word of commendation.

We have thus endeavoured to deal frankly and fairly with the landscape-painters. There remain several subject pictures which we are not disposed to pass by without a word. Mr. F. R. Pickersill, R.A., has only one small picture, No. 179, "The Crusader Returned," which by no means offers any favourable points for remark. Mr. Cope's (R.A.) "Two Mothers," a pair of small but laboured pictures, of a wonderfully unworthy style for an academician, may also be dismissed without regret. Mr. E. Goodall, A.R.A., exhibits a large and picturesque work, "The Return of a Wealthy Pilgrim from Mecca;" the scene being laid in the streets of Cairo. The only subject in it, however, is the black purse-bearer giving money to the beggars. The painting and general study of the pictures are, in their way, faultless. Mr. Sant, A.R.A., is nothing if not startling; and in No. 29, "The First Sense of Sorrow," a picture intended, as a quotation tells us, to represent Steele when a child, after rapping upon his father's coffin, and calling upon him, embraced by his despairing mother. Mr. Sant certainly does his utmost to produce an effect, but the picture is a failure. Mr. Sant's best pictures are his portraits. Mr. Yeames, a young painter, shows very considerable promise in No. 631, "Rescued." A strong fisherman has plunged off a harbour side into the sea, and, holding by a mooring-ring, climbs up with a child on his shoulder, the mother reaching her arms far down eager to catch hold of the half-drowned little thing. The drawing of the sailor is excellent, and the action of the figure particularly nervous and expressive. Mr. M. Stone paints a picture more in the manner of his late father than his work of last year. It is called "A Painter's First Work" (502), a little fellow astonishing his friends by some figures scrawled in chalk on the wainscot. Mr. Rankley's "Gipsy at the Gate" (616) is pretty, and not without humour and sentiment. Mr. Mark's "Jester's Text," a jester preaching from the sundial to his courtly master and mistress, is excellent in humorous character. The landscape, as to its general colour, is evidently not the forte of the painter. Mr. Wallis's "Sir Walter Raleigh" is a neatly-painted figure, and happily this time not in his pre-Raphaelite manner. Mr. Arthur Hughes, "the first painter of the age" (of infancy?), according to the first critic of the International Exhibition, exhibits a picture of "Bedtime" (508)—a cottager's family washing up, saying prayers, and saying good night. At any rate, these homely people are arrayed in purple, if not in fine linen. So strange and ghastly a group was seldom seen, and the aim at expression is really ludicrously bad. To those who like character subjects, "The Quaker and the Taxgatherer" and "The Children at the Tower" of Mr. G. B. O. Neil, and "The Past, Present, and Future," by Mr. G. E. Hicks, a new march made at a wedding breakfast, will be amusing pictures. Mr. G. Smith's "Searching for the Will" (519), Mr. C. Inet's "Vocal and Instrumental" (562), a mock band of London boys, and Mr. D. W. Deane's "Ballad-singing in Andalusia," are also pictures that, for what they pretend to, deserve to be mentioned amongst the net bad pictures in the exhibition.

THE EX-KING OF AURACANIA.

In this age of scepticism and unhesitating credulity the first news of a previously unrecognised Monarch may be considered an event calculated to awaken peculiar interest; and yet it is probable that, as the individual in question has achieved distinction only by misfortune, he will excite but a passing curiosity. However this may be, we present our readers with a Portrait of Orélie Antoine I., lately King of Auracania.

Auracania itself is a part of the Republic of Chili—that territory which, originally belonging to the Incas of Peru, was conquered by Pizarro, who, in 1535, sent Almagro to invade the country, he having already taken possession of Peru. Almagro was arrested in his progress by the warlike southern tribes, and was followed by Valdivia, who completed the conquest of Chili, with the exception of Auracania.

The ex-King of this province was originally an attorney of Perigueux, the capital of the department of Dordogne, in France, who, finding that the inhabitants of his native place either were not sufficiently litigious, or had had too little confidence in his powers to enable him to amass a fortune, embarked for Chili, and, after having passed a probationary term amidst the cocoanut-trees and cedars of the country, obtained amongst the Auracians an amount of esteem which seemed likely to open a way for the gratification of his ambition.

The renown of the French adventurer grew, indeed, so rapidly that the Molonches eventually elected him as their King. "Uneasy lies the head which wears a crown," however, and Orélie Antoine, doubtless with some natural longings for recognition in the land of his nativity, took steps towards ameliorating his condition by concluding an alliance with France, a determination which, being made without sufficient acquaintance with the Chilian character and its unconquerable jealousy, led to his being quietly carried off during a brief siesta, and to his confinement in the prison of Santiago, where he still remains.

SAVANNAH.

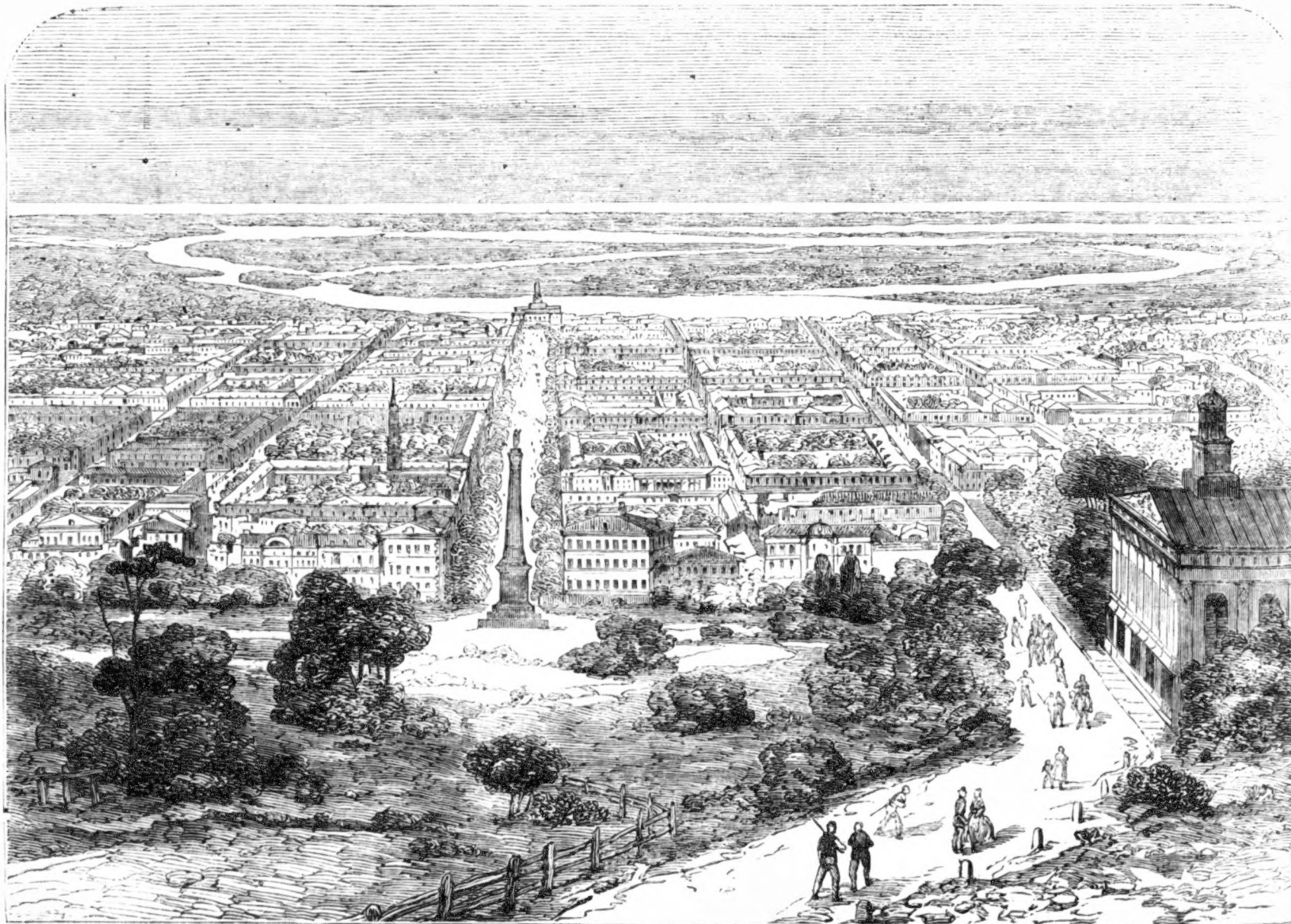
GEORGIA, which will play so important a part in the history



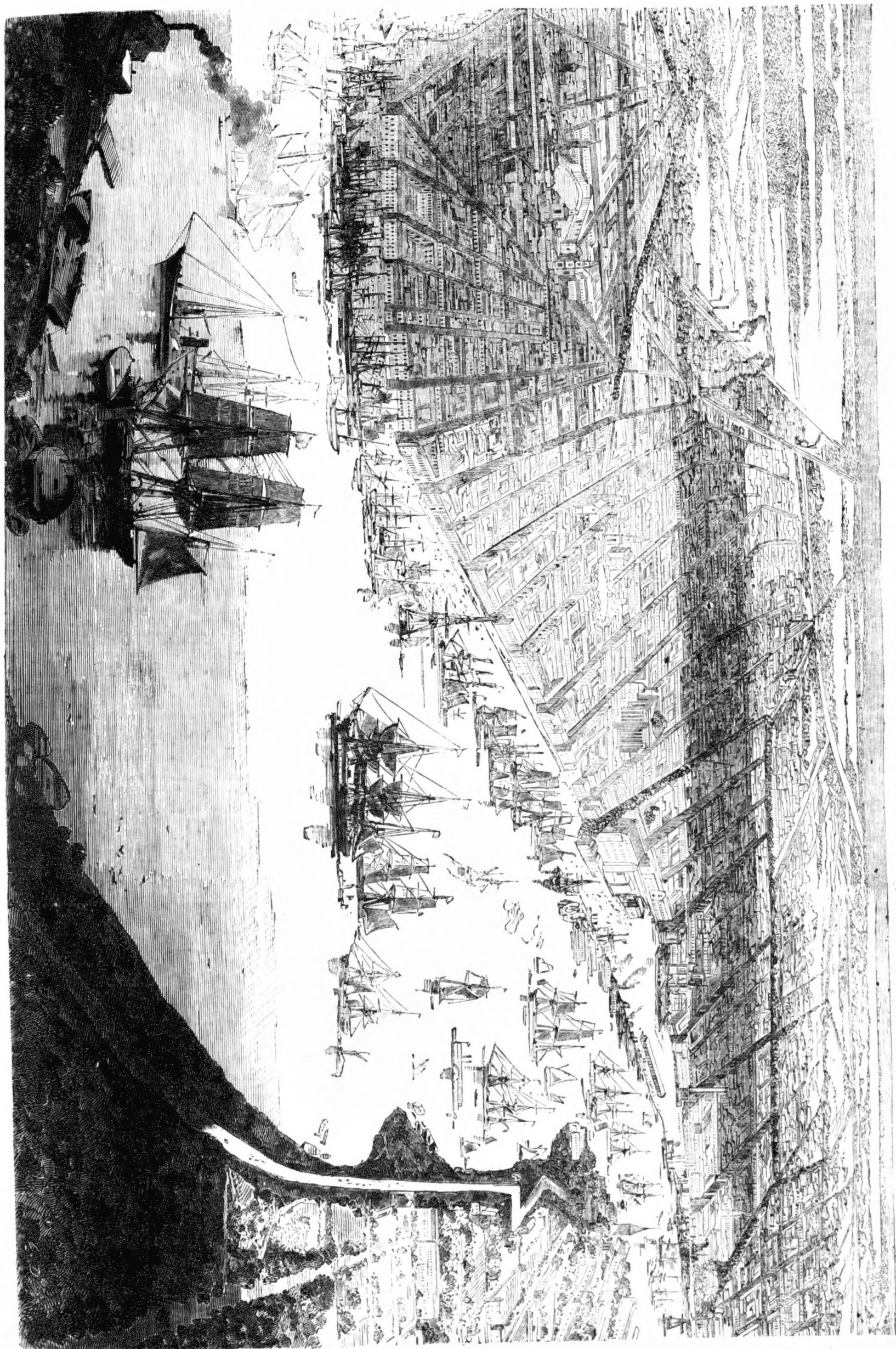
ORELIE ANTOINE, EX-KING OF AURACANIA, NOW A PRISONER AT SANTIAGO, CHILI.
(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY S. SANTOS TORNERO, OF VALPARAISO.)

of the present conflict in America, is, next to Virginia, the most populous and wealthy of the Southern States. Nature here seems to be prodigal in the advantages which she gives to the whole district, although the wonderful fertility of the country is not always accompanied by a climate which can be borne with impunity by strangers who visit it for the first time. This insalubrity, however, is particularly observable on the low-lying shores, where the heat of the sun is most intense; and it is in the islands which lie beyond the coast that the celebrated cotton called Georgian long silk is most successfully cultivated. The State of Georgia was colonised by General Oglethorpe in the same year that witnessed the birth of Washington (1732); and the first inhabitants, after having maintained a continual struggle against the Spaniards of Florida, took an active part in the War of Independence.

The city of Savannah fell into the hands of the British troops on the 29th of December, 1778, and both the French and American fleets made repeated but unsuccessful efforts to retake it. The name of Georgia was at first given to the whole extent of country lying to the east of the Mississippi, and comprehended the present States of Mississippi and Alabama. Georgia is separated from Carolina by the River Savannah, which, rising in the Alleghany mountains, falls into the Atlantic, after a course of some 450 miles. On the right bank of this river, and about seventeen miles above its mouth, is the city of Savannah, the capital of the State, built upon a great sandy plateau, and connected with the interior by lines of railway, while it has at the same time immediate access to the basin of the Mississippi, and is, indeed, one of the great commercial ports of the once United States. Standing not more than 40ft. above the water, Savannah was long deemed an unhealthy city, both on account of the marshes which occupy its eastern and western extremities, and from the practice of inundating the adjacent district for the cultivation of the ricefields. The latter disadvantage, however, was obviated by an agreement on the part of the citizens to indemnify the proprietors of the fields for adopting the dry



VIEW OF SAVANNAH, THE CAPITAL OF GEORGIA.



VIEW OF NEW ORLEANS.

mode of cultivation, by the payment of a sum amounting to nearly £14,000. The town itself is constructed with great regularity, in the usual American rectangular form; many of the spacious streets and squares being planted with a double row of splendid trees, the squares, indeed, being also laid out in grass plots and shady avenues, which give the entire city a charmingly varied appearance.

Until 1820 the greater part of the houses were constructed of wood; but a conflagration in which 463 of them were destroyed, as well as property to the value of £800,000, led to the substitution of brick for building purposes, and to the general sanitary improvement of the entire town. Amongst the public buildings are nearly a score of churches, one of the most prominent of which is that of the Independent Presbyterians. This very handsome edifice is composed of light-coloured granite, and is said to have cost £20,000. In addition to these there are an arsenal, barracks, an hospital, a theatre, and several public offices; while the large and lofty warehouses lining the river wharfs, and accessible from the adjoining street, are sufficient indication of the extent of the trade carried on here. The harbour of Savannah is one of the best on the southern coast, the bar across the mouth of the river having from 18ft. to 20ft. of water at ebb tide, and vessels drawing 15ft. or 16ft. of water getting within three miles of the town; while those which draw only 13ft. lie alongside the wharfs. The principal exports of Savannah are—or rather were, lumber, rice, and upland cotton.

NEW ORLEANS.

THERE are, perhaps, few places in the world to which more anxious attention is at present directed than to New Orleans, the city in which life in its gayest and most vicious courses, and death in its most sudden and revolting forms, have long gone hand in hand. Founded by the French in 1717 and named after the Regent, it was afterwards abandoned until its settlement in 1722, from which time its marvellous prosperity may be said to have commenced. In 1763 it was ceded to Spain together with the whole of Louisiana west of the Mississippi, but, notwithstanding the political alteration, was only temporarily checked in its prosperous career. In 1801 Napoleon once more joined it to the French possessions, but, discovering that it was likely to be but a difficult and costly acquisition, made the best of the matter by selling it to the United States. In 1804 it was made a port of entry, and was incorporated in 1805, at which time its population was about 8000. The population is now 180,000. In 1815 an unsuccessful attempt was made upon New Orleans by the British troops under Sir E. Pakenham, the Americans being commanded by General Jackson. At this time it was the capital of Louisiana, an honour of which it was deprived in 1849. Situated on the left bank and delta of the Mississippi, and only five miles south of Lake Pontchartrain, with which it has both water and railway communication, the position of New Orleans enables it to command the traffic of the great river basin, which gives it its character of one of the largest commercial emporiums in the world. To all its advantages, however, is opposed the one terrible objection of its extreme unhealthiness. Standing on an alluvial flat, seldom more than nine feet above and generally several feet below the level of the river, it is only saved from inundation by the levee, a strong embankment, which follows the windings of the stream for about 160 miles. This levee, which is 100ft. wide in the part fronting the town—which stretches parallel to it for five or six miles, and extends behind towards the lake for about two miles—forms a crescent shape from west to north and north-east. Here the river has an average depth of 130ft., and the crowd of vessels, whose masts rise in an almost countless forest; the swarm of flat-bottomed boats; the gigantic steamers, with their piled cargoes and large company of passengers, all indicate the unexampled and rapid prosperity of the Crescent City—at least did, for all this has been changed since the commencement of the war. Whether New Orleans will again resume its old importance, now that it is in the hands of the Federals, is doubtful, at all events for a time.

The old portion of the town of New Orleans was composed of houses constructed partly of wood and partly of brick, with the balconies and cornices of the original French and Spanish settlers; but in many of the more modern quarters, although no regular plan has been adopted in building the suburbs, the streets are spacious and regularly laid out. There are several public squares, well planted and laid out in shady walks, and, indeed, an occasional opportunity for retreating into shadow is so necessary at New Orleans that many of the streets have their avenues planted with trees, and the houses delight in garden plots ornamented with shrubs and flowers.

The public buildings, few of which are striking in an architectural sense, consist of a number of churches, the majority being Roman Catholic; some collegiate institutions, among which is the University founded in 1849, and occupying a large edifice; the Custom House, which is one of the chief ornaments of the city; and the Mint, which occupies a space on the esplanade.

It is to the hotels of New Orleans, however, that the city owes its principal attraction for visitors, and, indeed, many of them are truly magnificent. Life in New Orleans rushes on always at fever heat, and, notwithstanding the awful mortality to which it has so frequently been subject, the pursuit of pleasure in a fierce and reckless fashion is a characteristic of a large proportion of the inhabitants. Excitement being the natural and constant habit of the people, the liveliness of New Orleans, especially as combined with its deadliness, is not always agreeable to strangers, who become involved in quarrels, disputes, gambling transactions, or expressions of public opinion before they see the dangerous consequences likely to ensue from the reckless and uncertain habits of many of the habitués of the public promenades and hotel barrooms. Only at one period of the year does comparative quiet reign at New Orleans, and that is during the fever season, from the beginning of July to the end of September, when all those who are in possession of the means leave the city to seek some more salubrious retreat. Then the din and giddy whirl of frenzied pleasure subsides for a time; the furnaces, foundries, distilleries, saw-mills, sugar-refineries, and tobacco factories have it mostly to themselves, and for a brief space New Orleans lies panting with hot unwholesome breath under the burning sky.

THE PARLIAMENTARY RIFLE CONTEST.—It is confidently stated in many quarters, where accurate information is likely to be received, that notwithstanding the somewhat awkward explanations in the House of Commons on Friday week, the Lords and Commons will be competitors at the forthcoming rifle-match at Wimbledon. So far, indeed, is the report believed in, that betting is going on in sporting circles, and the names of the competitors are freely mentioned. Amongst the Peers one hears the names of Lord Eversley, who is known to be a crack shot; the Marquis of Abercorn, who is Captain of the London Scottish; the Earl of Duple; the Earl of Belmore, late Captain of the London Irish; Lord Lurgan; the Duke of Manchester, who is Captain-Commandant of the Hunts Cavalry; Lord Vernon, Lord Radstock, and Lord Lytton. Amongst the Commons are mentioned Lord Bury, who is Lieutenant-Colonel of the Civil Service, and who proved himself to be the second best shot in England last July at Wimbledon; Lord Holmsdale, Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, Mr. Wynne, Lord Elcho, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Scottish; Earl Grosvenor, of the Queen's Westminsters; Mr. Charles Buxton, Mr. Bentinck, and Mr. H. Sturt. Whether the Lord Chancellor will fire a shot with the Speaker does not seem to have been accurately ascertained.

PROPOSED RAILWAY FROM HALIFAX, N.S., TO QUEBEC.—A despatch from the Duke of Newcastle to the Governors of the North American colonies has just been published. It relates to the construction of a railway from Halifax, in Nova Scotia, to Quebec, a distance of 350 miles, and the estimated cost is £3,000,000. Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick offered to raise the interest on this sum to the extent of 2 per cent if the mother country would contribute 2 per cent more, thus guaranteeing to the lenders 4 per cent in all. The Duke of Newcastle says that the Government object to burden England with this expense, but they are willing, if the colonies will raise the money, to give the Imperial guarantee for the payment of the interest, thus enabling the colonies to raise the loan on lower terms than they otherwise would do; and there the matter rests for the present.

SUICIDES IN FRANCE.—A curious calculation respecting suicides in France has just been published. It shows that the number of suicides committed in France since the beginning of the present century is not less than 300,000. The returns, however, are not complete, except from the year 1856. From that year to the year 1852 there were 32,126 suicides, being an average of 3000 yearly. In 1858 there were 3061 suicides, of which 3050 were by men and 11 by women. The last return given is for the year 1859, when there were 3067 suicides committed by men and 842 by women.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 186.

CHURCH RATES.

THE church-rate business is fast sinking below the horizon, and will soon disappear, not to rise again in our hemisphere until the earth shall have journeyed once again round the sun. But, as it was by far the most exciting thing that we have had in the House of Commons this Session, we must catch a view of it before it sinks out of sight and out of mind and try and bring it before the eyes of our readers. It was known beforehand that we were to have a stern battle—a great trial of strength—upon this question. Some years ago the anti church-rate people passed their bill by a majority of 70; but this was not a real test of their strength, for at that time the Church had unaccountably gone to sleep, seemed to be mesmerised, had no organisation, and appeared to be disposed to let church rates go by the board. But since then they have been roused from their torpor, have organised their forces, and have appointed agents to watch over their interests, and to summon them by sound of trumpet or by fiery cross, when needful, to action. And this was the result.

THE AGENT FOR THE CHURCH.

Their agent-in-chief is one Mr. Nott, once known as a stationer of the firm of Bielby and Nott, of Birmingham, but now the regularly-appointed watchman of the Church. Mr. Nott is an old man, nearer seventy than sixty, we should say; but he is still active and energetic, and can and does perform his work well. Indeed, a more zealous, untiring worker never lived than Mr. Nott. Whenever any Church question is above the rim of the horizon you are sure to see Mr. Nott in the lobby or thereabouts. Sometimes you note him rushing out of the crowd to intercept a member as he crosses the pavement; at others he is holding some leading Conservative by the button; again, when the question is under debate, he is under the gallery watching its progress; anon, he is in the small room near the refreshment-stall writing his letters; and he never seems to tire. We have seen him at the House in the morning; we have heard that he is often at work long after the House is up. With the Conservative leaders Mr. Nott is a great favourite, as such a faithful servant ought to be; but we rather suspect that some of the younger men of the fast sort look upon him as a bit of a bore; for it is not pleasant to your swell, when he has made arrangements for the Opera, the race-course, &c., to be seized by the collar, as it were, and told peremptorily that he must stop in the House to defend the Church. Still the old gentleman does his work well, and has thus far achieved a success. He has rallied his scattered forces—brought them well up again to the front—and turned that ugly majority of 70 into a minority of 1. And he is sincere and honest, too—paid, no doubt, as he ought to be; but that he works *con amore*, and renders services which no money could buy, there cannot be a doubt. But run not away with the idea, Reader, whether Churchman or Dissenter, that this old gentleman is a sour bigot, for we can assure you that he is nothing of the sort. He is a man of one idea—to wit, that "the Church is in danger, and that it is his mission to defend it." The Church is his all; he thinks of nothing else when he is awake; he dreams of it when he is asleep; he believes, in short, that it is the axis on which our political and social system whirls, and that if that break all will go to ruin. But he is not a sour bigot, but, on the contrary, is amiable, good-humoured, enjoys life, loves a joke, and would not, as we say, hurt a fly. But you must not touch his Church—every part of that is sacred and dear as the apple of his eye: from foundation to topmost stone all is precious, and must not be meddled with.

DITTO FOR DISSENTERS.

The worker on the other side is the slim, active, young gentleman with the straw-coloured beard whom you always see about when these questions are uppermost. His name is Foster—Dr. Foster. He is a lawyer by profession, and a learned man, we should suppose, for his LL.D. is no foreign degree bought with money, but an honest distinction, won after severe examinations from the University of London. Dr. Foster is the *bête noir* of the Church party—a hideous nightmare—a sort of ogre, who is supposed to live for no other purpose than to devour the Church; and no doubt he is, from their point of view, a very dangerous person, for he is as active and energetic as his opponent, and quite as sincere. Mr. Nott devoutly believes that the State Church is the "one thing needful"—Dr. Foster, with equal earnestness and sincerity, believes that a State Church is a nuisance, and so the two join issue, "and," as the old heralds used to cry, "May God defend the right!"

THE DEBATE.

The debate, as a whole, was dull, stale, and unprofitable—a mere thrashing of thrice-thrashed straw, from which no new kernel or fact of argument could be got—a feast not at all inviting. Sir John Trelawny served up a plain, substantial dish, but of the old viands. Sir Charles Buxton gave us a cup of 'aff-and' 'aff; Sir George Lewis the same. Mr. McDonagh, who was thought before he displayed his powers to be a great card, but speedily sunk down to nothing, served up an Irish stew, not alluring. John Bright offered us a draught of his double X. Mr. Sotherton-Estcourt presented, as he has often done before, his watery, tasteless, three-times-skimmed sky-blue. Sir John Pakington's gift was very much like weak tea; and Disraeli's was an old mixture, which has been offered to the anti church-rate party and has been always rejected with scorn. But if the feast was not inviting nobody was obliged to partake of it, and few did, for by a happy arrangement between the leaders of the two parties it was settled that the division was not to come off till after four. The men of business, therefore, hied back to their offices, and the men of pleasure to the parks, and during the greater part of the debate the House was thus, listless, and indifferent.

PREPARING FOR THE FIGHT.

But between four and five we saw another sight, for then the members came tumbling in by shoals. Faces were seen which had not appeared in the House since the opening of the Session—faces embrowned by the sun and the sea air, showing that peremptory summonses had been sent not only through these but other lands. Not since the great division on the paper duties has there been so peremptory a whip. One man had to post as fast as steam by land and sea could bring him from Rome; another was found by the fiery cross at Naples; a third was disporting himself at Frankfurt; and several were located at Paris when the despatch marked "urgent and immediate" reached them. At one time we had six hundred members in the House—a number quite unprecedented except in a great party fight, when the existence of the Government of the day is at stake. Some of these paired off; but five hundred and seventy-seven polled, including tellers. It was about five o'clock when the tale was made up, and the whips gave the signal that talking was to cease; and, though talking did not actually cease, the hearing did, for after the signal was given a row commenced below the bar and soon spread all over the House. Mr. Dillwyn rose in the midst of the storm, but no sound of his voice could be heard above the roaring elements around. Mr. Dillwyn is a brave man, and very dogged and persevering, and we have seen him outlive a tolerably lively gale; but this was too much for him, and so he promptly and wisely put back and dropped into his seat. We have intimated that the whip on this occasion was peremptory and energetic on both sides, but the leaders of the Church party had more accurately calculated their strength, and, as the result showed, had their forces better in hand than their opponents had, for Colonel Taylor and his sub foretold to a man how many they should be able to bring up to the poll, whereas the anti church-rate leaders were all abroad.

THE DIVISIONS EXPLAINED.

And now, for the benefit of our readers not learned in Parliamentary forms, let us, as our wont is on such occasions, expound the divisions. The original question, moved by Sir John Trelawny, was, "that the Bill be now read a second time." Mr. Sotherton-Estcourt moved, by way of amendment, to leave out all the words after *that*, in order to insert the words

It is unjust and inexpedient to abolish the ancient customary right, exercised from time immemorial by the ratepayers of every parish in England, to

raise by rate amongst themselves the sums required for the repair of their church until some other provision shall have been made by Parliament for the discharge of those obligations to which, by custom or statute, the churchwardens, on the part of the parish, are liable."

The first division was that upon the question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the question," and this was negatived by 287 to 286—majority, 1. Well, when this was done the only word left of the original motion was "that," and then the House divided on the motion that the amendment proposed by Mr. Sotherton-Estcourt be added, which was carried by 288 to 271—majority, 17. That is to say, the bill was lost and Mr. Sotherton-Estcourt's amendment carried.

No doubt it has occurred to our readers to ask how it was that all the men who voted for the bill on the first division did not vote against Mr. Sotherton-Estcourt's amendment? As our manner is in such cases, anxious always to show the public the inner life of the House, we proceed to give an explanation. First, then, it was because the Conservative whips had their men better in hand and watched them with more vigilance. Secondly, it arose in part from the following circumstance:—The Liberals in the second division made their exit from the division lobby close to the front door—the Conservatives left their division lobby behind the Speaker's chair, a long way from the front door. Many on both sides made a dash as soon as the first division was over, ignorant that another division would be taken; and the Liberals, being nearest the front door, got clear away, whereas the Conservatives, being a long way off, were stopped before they could escape by the whips. But still great blame attaches to the Liberal whips. They knew, or ought to have known, that there would be a second division, and should have placed a man at the door to keep watch and ward.

THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT.

The Conservatives were riotously jubilant over this victory. They shouted and screamed as if they had been frantic. Indeed, one or two of them set up a dance in the division lobby, so intoxicated were they with joy. Poor old Nott looked quite radiant as he stood at the door to receive the congratulations of his friends as they came out; and well he might, for in a great measure it was owing to his long-continued and unwearying exertions that this success was achieved. He had the honour to shake hands with the chiefs of his party. Even the grim leader, as he passed smiled, took this faithful servant of the Church by the hand, and expressed a hope that he was satisfied.

BUT QUESTION NOT SETTLED.

"Then the church-rate question is settled!" No, friend, not a bit of it, except in the sense that the spendthrift settled his debt by signing a bill. "Thank Heaven!" said he, "I have settled that account," as he complacently laid down his pen, not reflecting that this bill would run its course and in due time come back inexorably, with accumulated interest on its back. In such manner only is this business settled—unsettled, we should rather say. No, this question is not settled, and cannot be settled by voting with never-so-great majorities nor with the most frantic enthusiasm. Like all other questions of this sort, it will come back as certain as doom, and with accumulations. Compromise was once possible, but it is rapidly growing to be impossible; and soon, very soon, not only will all chance of compromise be lost, but probably even greater demands will be made. "Three hundred pieces of gold for these nine books, your Majesty," said the sibil to Tarquin. He denied her; whereupon the sibil burnt three, and asked the same price for the six; which being still denied, she threw three more into the fire and demanded the same sum for the remainder, which Tarquin was at last obliged to give.

THE HOUSE GETS ANGRY.

The House is getting excited, and angry, and unmanageable. We never saw it in a more angry state of mind than it was on Friday night, when the question of the Alderney fortifications was before it. Towards the end of the discussion it would hear nobody. Danby Seymour was regularly hooted down. In vain did he lift up that strong voice of his—a voice equal in power to that of Stentor—the House would not hear him. The louder he roared, the more the excited members howled. Nor did Sir Morton Peto meet with a more decorous reception, albeit he is a great authority, and is usually listened to with respect on such subjects as this. This Alderney vote is an old *casus belli*, and probably next year, when some more thousands shall have been thrown away after the hundreds of thousands which have been already spent, will be refused. This year it escaped with a majority of 8 in a House of 272 members; nor was the House much less turbulent when Gladstone's bill for removing the natural-history department of the British Museum to Kensington was before it; and this bill was lost, in spite of all that the Government could do, by a majority of no less than 163 to 71. Let the reader note that this is the first division upon the Kensington affair since the Prince Consort's death, and ponder the fact. The palmy days of the Kensington institution are over.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 16.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The business transacted in the House of Lords was not of any general interest.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PARLIAMENTARY RIFLE-MATCH.

Mr. B. OSBORNE called attention to what he called a hoax on the other House of Parliament, and begged to ask the Speaker whether it was true that a challenge had been sent by the Commons to the Lords to a rifle contest?

Lord ELCHO read a letter from the Speaker to him, and said he had never expected that the circumstance would have been mentioned in public. He regretted that this had caused the Speaker any annoyance.

The SPEAKER said he was prepared to take the matter in good humour, but he regretted that the time of the House had been occupied on such a matter, and he hoped that no member of the House could believe that he would for a moment have ventured to take any liberty with the House.

After some remarks from Lord Palmerston the subject dropped.

MEXICO.

In answer to Sir G. Bowyer, Lord PALMERSTON said that by the latest accounts received from Mexico it was the intention of the French troops to advance upon the city of Mexico. As to what the intentions of the French Government were, he could only refer to the terms of the convention which had been entered into between the three Powers.

THE CIVIL SERVICE CHARGES.

Mr. AYRTON called attention to the manner in which the charges for the civil service are increased, and asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is expedient to make any change in the mode of conducting business, to enable the House to exercise a more effectual supervision over the progress of measures which tend to that increase?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER admitted that the subject was one of very considerable importance, and said that, with regard to public works, he saw no reason why some definite estimate of the charge should not be submitted to the House before bills brought in by the Government were passed through all their stages. He intended to propose that the House should appoint a Select Committee to take the whole subject into consideration.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, commencing with a sum of £90,000 for works at Alderney.

Mr. BAXTER moved the omission of the vote.

A very animated discussion took place; and on a division the vote was carried by 138 to 139.

MONDAY, MAY 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

After the passing of a regulation on the mode of taking divisions, the Register of Voters Bill was read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE LONGFORD ELECTION.

The SPEAKER announced that the petition against the return of Major O'Reilly for the county of Longford had been withdrawn.

THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY.

On the order for reading the Customs and Inland Revenue Bill a third time, Mr. DILLWYN again directed attention to what he considered to be the serious aspect of the national finances. He referred more especially to the deficit continued from year to year. How, he inquired, was it that so large

an increase of expenditure had taken place since the year 1858? In that year there were exceptional circumstances to call for a considerable increase in our naval and military establishments. There was a strong feeling of irritation in reference to France, but these exceptional circumstances had passed away, while the exceptional expenditure was continued. The excess of expenditure for our defences amounted to between four and five millions since 1858, and this created a deficit which he confessed he regarded with grave apprehensions. He was willing to admit that we were bound to maintain our supremacy at sea, but he denied that our fleet was unequal in number or power to France. But if France was really our good and loyal ally, why was it necessary that an enormous expenditure should be entailed to keep up powerful fleets and a numerous army? The question really amounted to this—were these preparations and improvements in the science of naval warfare made by England on the presumption that France was her friend or on the presumption that France was her foe? As he believed that France had no dreams of conquest as far as England was concerned, and as, in the present state of European affairs, there was no reasonable prospect of war in any quarter, he ventured to express a hope that the Government would reconsider the public expenditure and adapt the charge to the state of the revenue.

Lord PALMERSTON said there was now in the United Kingdom a smaller force of troops than Mr. Disraeli and his friends thought necessary for its defence. As to the naval expenditure, a member of Lord Derby's Government was responsible for the initiation and the pressing of the expenditure connected with the reconstruction of our navy, so as to place us on an equality with France in iron ships, which was not yet done. As to his not objecting to the increase of the French navy, that could not be the subject of international remonstrance, and France had a right to judge of her own naval requirements; but it was necessary, without anticipating hostilities with France, we should be not only equal but superior to her on the sea. There was no expectation of France being our enemy, provided we were always in a situation to defend ourselves. It was because he wished that there should be peace and a cordial alliance with France that he desired that there should be no temptation to break it by any exhibition of weakness in this country. France had at sea or building thirty-six iron ships, while we had only twenty-five; so that in this respect she was ahead of us by eleven.

A discussion followed, which mainly turned on details of the bill, and on which Mr. White promised his support to Mr. Disraeli as an economical Minister.

The bill was then read a third time and passed.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved the second reading of the British Museum Bill, the object of which is to make a separation of the national collection in the present building of the British Museum, and the transferring of a part to a building to be erected on a site at South Kensington.

Mr. GREGORY opposed the bill on the ground of expense, and objected to the removal of the natural-history museum to so inconvenient a site as Kensington. He moved its rejection.

After some discussion the House divided, when the second reading was lost, and the Government defeated by 163 to 71.

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE NAVY.

On going into Committee of Supply Lord R. MONTAGU moved for a return of the plans for shipyard ships received at the Admiralty, and the annual expense of building and altering wooden ships of war since the 1st of January, 1856. The question of iron ships was raised by the noble Lord, and the detail of what had been done and is to be done on this head by the Admiralty. The motion was in its substance granted.

TUESDAY, MAY 20.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

Earl RUSSELL laid upon the table the treaty recently concluded between her Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States for the suppression of the slave trade, and in doing so bore testimony to the exertions of the present Cabinet at Washington for the extinction of that inhuman traffic by the adoption of vigorous and effectual measures for preventing the fitting out of slavers from New York and Boston.

The Bishop of OXFORD expressed the gratification he felt at the conclusion of such a treaty, which, he observed, supplied all that was required to crown the efforts of this country for the suppression of the slave trade.

Earl STANHOPE inquired for how long a period the treaty was to be in force?

Earl RUSSELL replied, for ten years.

Earl GREY also intimated his satisfaction, and said he believed the existence of the treaty would lead to the development of a considerable trade with Africa, especially in the article of cotton.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ALLEGED ADVANCE OF THE PERSIANS TO HERAT.

Sir M. FARQUHAR inquired whether it was true that the Persians were marching on Herat?

Sir C. WOOD said he had received information by the last mail that the report was not true, and that no such movement was on foot.

NEW BILLS.

Captain O'CONNELL obtained leave to bring in a bill to provide for the distribution of the balance of the funds of the late Tranche Savings Bank.

In Committee of the whole House leave was given to bring in a bill for the amendment of the law of partnership.

Leave was given to Sir G. C. LEWIS to bring in a bill for vesting in the Secretary of State for War the lands of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, and for completing certain exchanges of land now or late of the said college; also a bill for the more speedy trial of certain homicides committed by persons subject to the Mutiny Act, and for giving jurisdiction to the Central Criminal Court to inquire into such homicides; and a bill to appropriate certain portions of land lying between high and low water mark in the parishes of Shoebury and Wakering, in Essex, as ranges for the practice of artillery.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Oxford University Bill passed through Committee.

The order for the second reading of the Savings Bank Bill was discharged.

Sir G. GREY moved the second reading of the Lunacy Regulation Bill, the principal provisions of which he explained.

A discussion of a technical character ensued, in which Sir H. Cairns, Mr. Walpole, Mr. Malins, and Mr. Henley took part, after which the bill was read a second time.

The Public-houses (Scotland) Bill was recommitted, and several amendments were introduced.

The Landed Property Improvement (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Crown Private Estates Bill and the Universities (Scotland) Act Amendment (No. 2) Bill were read a second time.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SALE OF SPIRITS BILL.

Mr. W. MARTIN moved the second reading of the Sale of Spirits Bill, the object of which is to modify a section of the Act 24 Geo. II., chapter 40—"The Tipping Act." The intention of that Act was to prevent the indiscriminate sale of liquors at a time when drunkenness largely prevailed in every class of society. At present this Act was much abused. Persons buying small quantities of liquor and being unable or unwilling to pay pleaded with effect "The Tipping Act." The bill would prevent this, and it was not intended to apply to liquor drunk on the premises.

Mr. AYTON opposed the bill, contending that no case was made out for its necessity, while "The Tipping Act" had tended to reduce the quantity of spirits drunk by one half.

The bill was supported by Mr. Dodson and Mr. Deedes, and objected to by Mr. W. E. Forster.

Sir G. GREY said that a sufficient grievance had been shown which required a remedy; and, as the bill did not apply to spirits drunk on the premises, and as he believed that it would work beneficially, he should support it.

The bill was opposed by Mr. Lawson and Mr. Halliburton, and supported by Mr. S. Estcourt, Mr. Roebuck, and Mr. Taylor; while Mr. Spooner suggested its withdrawal and the introduction of a better devised measure.

On a division, the second reading was carried by 82 to 53.

AMENDMENTS OF IRISH LAW.

Mr. WHITESIDE moved the second reading of the Judgments Law Amendment (Ireland) Bill, the object of which is to diminish the facilities for assigning judgments.

A discussion followed, in which the Solicitor-General moved the rejection of the bill. But eventually it was read a second time, on the understanding that it be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. WHITESIDE moved the second reading of the Debentures on Land (Ireland) Bill, the object of which is to enable purchasers of land in the Landed Estates Court to raise money upon it by debentures to half the value of the rental.

Having been debated, the bill was read a second time and referred to a Select Committee, as was a bill, entitled Land Debentures (Ireland) Bill, brought in by Mr. Scully, and both were referred to the same Select Committee.

THURSDAY, MAY 22.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

COPYRIGHT IN WORKS OF ART.

Earl GRANVILLE moved the second reading of this bill, the main object of which was to enable copyrights in these works to pass over to purchasers by a contract in writing.

Earl STANHOPE expressed his cordial approval of the measure. Lord OXFORD objected to some of its anomalies upon artists at the expense of the public.

The LORD CHANCELLOR thought that the measure would remove a great blot from our legislation, and confer a benefit alike upon artists and the public.

The bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CHURCH-RATE QUESTION.

Lord PALMERSTON, in reply to Sir John Pakington, stated that the Government had no intention to propose any measure this Session for the settlement of the church-rate question.

THE INCUNATIONS OF THE FENS.

Mr. FELLOWES, in reply to Mr. Bentinck, described the nature and extent of the inundations in the fen country, from which it appeared that about 5000 or 6000 acres of land were under water to the depth of two or three feet. The Middle-Level commissioners, of which he was chairman, had acted with great promptitude, and, as soon as the misfortune came to their knowledge, had adopted all the necessary measures to remedy the disaster and keep back the waters.

EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

On the order of the day for going into Committee of Supply, The O'CONNOR DON called attention to the state of national education in Ireland. The hon. member reviewed the history of the system and the results obtained, in a practical point of view, from the establishment of the Queen's Colleges in that country, and contended that the national system had proved a failure.

Sir R. PEEL denied that the national system was a failure, and referred to the returns made from time to time to prove the contrary. He characterised the views adopted by the O'Conor Don as most fallacious. During the last seven years there had been a greater number of students in the Queen's Colleges than in the other colleges of Ireland. They had attained an influence in the country which was as surprising as gratifying. He considered that the system had proved eminently successful, and he gave it his honest and unqualified support.

The debate was continued for a considerable portion of the evening, and was confined almost exclusively to the members from Ireland.

Several other questions having been disposed of, the House went into Committee of Supply.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

KIDDERMINSTER.—Mr. Bristow has vacated his seat for Kidderminster, in consequence of being appointed Solicitor to the Admiralty. Colonel Luke White offered himself to the electors, and Mr. Huddleston is contesting the seat on the Opposition interest.

SHREWSBURY.—Mr. Slaney, M.P. for Shrewsbury, died on Monday, in his seventy-first year. Mr. Slaney was first returned for the borough in 1826, and, though with frequent interruptions, he continued connected with it until his death. He was a Liberal in politics; but he was better known for his philanthropic exertions in favour of ameliorating the condition of the labouring poor. A contest for the vacant seat is anticipated.

THE PRINCESS ALICE.—It is expected that her Majesty will leave Balmoral on her return south about the 28th inst. Preparations are commencing at Osborne for the approaching marriage of her Royal Highness Princess Alice with Prince Louis of Hesse. We believe the ceremony will take place about the 9th of June, though the state of the health of the King of the Belgians may have a considerable influence in determining the exact date, as it is understood to be her Majesty's wish that the King should, if possible, represent the late Prince Consort on this occasion, and give the Royal bride away. We believe that Lady Victoria Scott, the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch, is desired to the honour of being one of the bridesmaids of Princess Alice. Lady Victoria has not yet been presented at Court, but, had her Majesty held a drawing-room this season, her ladyship's debut would have been for every reason a marked one in the beau monde. Lady Victoria is goddaughter to the Queen, and this may be one of the reasons why so marked a distinction has been conferred on her previous to her presentation.

THE MAYORALTY OF LONDON.—There are rumours that the present Lord Mayor will be once more put in nomination. The right hon. gentleman has not obtained his baronetcy at the opening of the International Exhibition as his friends anticipated; and, in the event of his going out of office at the close of the present year, he will not be Lord Mayor on the 9th of November, on which day the Prince of Wales comes of age. The Alderman who stands next in the order of rotation is Mr. William Anderson Rose. In the event of Mr. Cubitt being nominated, it is rumoured that there will be a hard battle, as the friends of Alderman Rose will make a strong effort to secure for him the honours of the mayoralty.

REFORM CONFERENCE.—A Reform Conference began its sittings on Tuesday at the Whittington Club. Mr. George Wilson, of Manchester, was the president. The chairman, in opening the discussion, reviewed the history of the Reform movement, and pointed out the various failures of different parties to carry an effective measure. He urged continued agitation on the subject. Among the subsequent speakers were Mr. Baines, M.P.; Mr. Taylor, M.P.; Mr. T. B. Potter, of Manchester; and several other gentlemen. The general tone of the speeches delivered was in favour of manhood suffrage as the principle of any reform agitation. Eventually, however, a committee was formed to draw up resolutions to be submitted to the Conference. In the evening the delegates were entertained at tea by the Ballot Society. The sittings of the Conference were resumed on Wednesday. Resolutions were adopted to the effect that it is unjust to exclude the working classes from the franchise, and that while the opinions of the majority of the delegates were in favour of manhood suffrage, yet, in order to secure union of all classes, any extension of the franchise which should include every male person, householder or lodger, rated or liable to be rated for the relief of the poor, a more equitable distribution of seats, the ballot, and triennial Parliaments, would be a satisfactory basis of action. Another resolution was passed expressing indignation at the abandonment of the Reform question by the Government. In the evening a public meeting was held, over which Mr. Morley presided, and where he spoke strongly in favour of the movement.

THE IPSWICH LIFE-BOAT.—The inhabitants of Ipswich are making extensive preparations to give great eclat to the launch into the Orwell, on the 29th inst., of the beautiful life-boat which they have presented to the National Life-boat Institution. Some of the leading members of the institution have promised to go down from London on the occasion. The Countess of Stradbroke has been invited to name the life-boat.

FATAL FIRE.—A shocking fire took place on Wednesday morning in Fore-street, Cripplegate, City. There appeared to have been five persons sleeping on the premises, but when the alarm of fire was raised one person rushed down stairs and made his escape by the street door. The fireman attempted to rescue a girl by the fire-escape, but she fainted under the suffocating smoke, and the man, unable to lift her, was obliged to let her go, and narrowly escaped with his own life. When the fire was extinguished it was found that an old lady of about seventy, her son and daughter, and a servant girl, had all miserably perished in the flames. The origin of the fire has not been ascertained.

A NEW TOMB has been erected over the grave of the author of "The Pilgrim's Progress" in Bunhill-fields Burial-ground, City-road. The requisite funds for this memorial have been raised by public subscription, under the presidency of the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury.

THE MARSHLAND DELUGE.

We have already noticed the bursting of a sluice in the Lincolnshire fens, and the consequent submersion of a large tract of land. The annexed Engraving shows the scene presented when the sluice burst. A few particulars regarding the drainage of these fens will not be uninteresting to our readers.

The Bedford Level is a tract of low land, containing about 400,000 acres, situated in Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Norfolk, and Lincolnshire. Its natural drainage is by the Rivers Nene and Ouse into the great estuary of the Wash, and so to the German Ocean; but much of it, lying below the level of the sea, remained for ages a series of lakes and swamps. Its name is derived from the ducal family of Bedford, which possesses large property in it, and two of the heads of which—Francis, fourth Earl, and his son and successor William, fifth Earl and first Duke—successively undertook (with the assistance of Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, a Dutch engineer) its drainage and reclamation.

In 1695 the Bedford Level was divided into the North, Middle, and South Levels, all under the management of the Bedford Level Corporation. In 1753 the North Level finally separated from the others, and, having its own drainage by the Nene (the Peterborough and Wisbeach River), it is no longer considered part of the Bedford Level. The Middle and South Levels each drain into the Ouse or Lynn River; but, as will be seen hereafter, the Middle Level has now no connection with that river until shortly before it reaches Lynn.

One of the earliest and chief works of the Bedford Level Corporation was the erection of a sluice across the Ouse at Denver, about twelve miles from Lynn. This was advised by Vermuyden, but opposed by Westerdijk, another Dutch engineer employed by the corporation. A sluice consists of folding doors set in strong brick-work, and constructed so as to be opened by the fresh water when the tide runs out and shut by the salt water when it comes in—the retreating fresh water thus making way for its own egress, and the advancing salt water opposing a barrier to its own progress. The

advantages of a sluice are that the banks above it need not be made strong enough to bear the weight and violence of the sea water, not high to avoid being overtopped by an unusually high tide, and that the retreating fresh water is not impeded in its course by the advancing salt water.

Denver sluice was, of course, constructed solely with a view to drainage, and its erection was thought to have a bad effect on the navigation, particularly in choking Lynn harbour. In fact, draining and navigation are and always must be conflicting interests, the former requiring the channel to contain as little, the latter as much, water as possible.

In 1713 the controversy was for a time settled by the tidal waters undermining and "blowing up" Denver sluice, and in that condition it remained until 1750, when, in spite of strong opposition from Lynn, it was rebuilt, and has remained ever since, the recent statement of its destruction being altogether a mistake.

Notwithstanding numerous and expensive works for the drainage of the Middle and South Levels, it remained very imperfect, while the navigation of the Ouse became worse daily. An opinion gradually prevailed that the bad state of both drainage and navigation proceeded from the width, shallowness, and circuitous course of the Ouse from Eau Brink to Lynn, and in 1795 an Act was passed for making a straight cut between these points, which, however, was not completed until 1821. The Act was the first of a series, called Eau Brink Acts, by which the drainage of the Bedford Level is in effect placed under the control of a body lately called the Eau Brink Drainage Commissioners, but now the Conservators of the Ouse Out-fall, leaving the Bedford Level Corporation but the shadow of authority. It has recently been proposed to dissolve that corporation, and finally separate the Middle and South Levels.

The proprietors of the Middle Level have already taken a great step in that direction. Their existing drainage being very incomplete, and particularly a large lake called Whittlesea Mere, being altogether incapable of drainage, they obtained an Act for making a new drain from their level to the Eau Brink Cut, which had answered the expectations of its promoters and the objections of its opponents by greatly improving both drainage and navigation. This "Middle-Level drain" was completed in 1852, at a cost of over £100,000, and it has been a complete success, having given the whole Middle Level, including Whittlesea Mere, an efficient natural drainage.

The drain is about eleven miles long, perfectly straight, and devoted exclusively to drainage, there being no navigation. Its out-fall into the Eau Brink Cut (about three miles above Lynn) was secured by a sluice which cost £30,000, and by which it is said the contractor lost £10,000.

The drain, though made for the sole benefit of the Middle Level, runs through a district called Marshland, lying between Lynn and Wisbeach, and forming no part of the Bedford Level. A great part of Marshland consists of fens, the largest of which is called Marshland Fen. These fens were drained about half a century ago, under local Acts, entirely distinct from those affecting the levels, and through them runs the Middle-Level drain, carrying through the Marshland fens the waters of the Middle Level on their way to the sea.

The Marshland fens, from reedy swamps, have been converted by drainage and cultivation into good corn land, almost equal in value to that of the rest of Marshland, which is one of the most fertile districts in England.

On Sunday, the 4th inst., the Middle-Level sluice blew up, as that at Denver had done in 1713, the cause in both cases being probably the same—viz., that the tidal waters had gradually undermined the brickwork and formed a hole in the bed of the river, in which the structure was engulfed.

There are 700,000 acres of the most productive land in the kingdom which lie below the high-water level of the Wash and depend for their existence as land upon great embankments and self-acting sluice-gates. Four miles south of King's Lynn there is a sluice-gate through which the waters of one of the huge drains empty themselves at low water into the River Ouse, thus passing out to sea with the receding tide, the gates closing of their own accord to the pressure of the rising tide. These works were, unfortunately, allowed to fall into disrepair. Small symptoms of decay, eloquent to the initiated, were disregarded. The natural consequence followed. The German Ocean, with a high spring tide, came up the river and toppled down the defences. The waters have been ever since pouring through that gap. Every tide necessarily increases the breach. The letting out of waters is proverbially a folly difficult to be repaired. Day by day the floods creep on, covering farm after farm and homestead after homestead; swallowing up flocks and herds, and driving back yeoman families, who retreat from their relentless enemy, and retreat as paupers. Competent authorities, so far from being able to give any consolation, declare that the district flooded at present is nothing like so great as the area which will in all probability suffer for the next year, or even more. Such is the present state of this vast and increasing irruption.

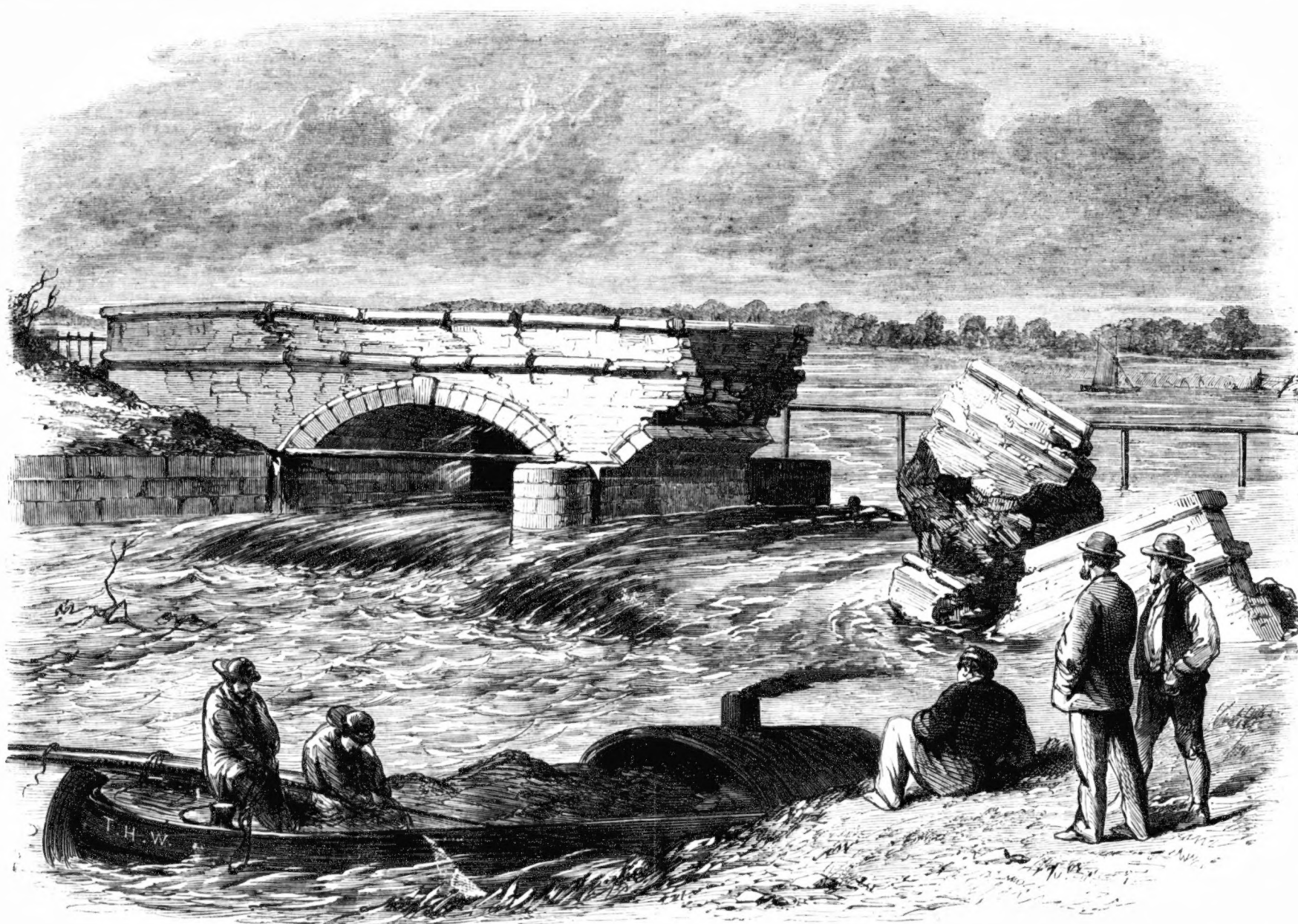
One peculiarly painful feature has been developed in connection with this sad catastrophe. Some miscreants have been discovered attempting to cut another hole in the dyke. It is difficult to conceive a motive to prompt such a deed at such a time; but we trust all such attempts will be defeated and the perpetrators severely punished.

FIRE AT QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CORK.

ON Thursday morning week a fire of an alarming character occurred at Queen's College, Cork. One whole wing of the building has been completely gutted, and a valuable pathological museum, which took the diligent labour of years to accumulate, and a large number of valuables, have been utterly destroyed.

The Queen's College is a building having its principal portion in front, with two wings, one at each end, and each about 120ft. long by 30ft. wide. In the western one, and which is devoted to the teaching of natural sciences, modern and ancient languages, medicine and surgery, the fire occurred, and close beside it are the engineering school and chemical laboratory. Professor O'Leary, in whose room it is said the fire commenced, is one of the heaviest sufferers, there having been destroyed eleven years' manuscripts, besides a valuable microscope, a collection of microscopic preparations made by himself, and which were highly prized, and a number of other articles. Professor De Vericour has also sustained, very great loss, a large and valuable collection of manuscripts having been burned, together with a valuable "Virgil" and "Tacitus." Dr. Blyth and Professors Harvey, England, and Lewis have also suffered more or less. Dr. Blyth's and Professor England's loss is believed to be slight compared with that sustained by others, the whole of the former gentleman's apparatus being saved except what was in a storeroom, and which consisted of some valuable cases. Professor England's apparatus too, it is thought, has escaped very well. Professor Murphy sustained some damage by the loss of a set of lectures, diagrams, fixtures, &c. The library of the college was fortunately saved, the fire not having extended so far as it; but the pathological and pharmaceutical departments, in the latter of which were some valuable specimens which belonged to the late Dr. Todd, were all destroyed. Everything in the *materni medicæ* room was destroyed, including pharmacy apparatus, plates, and the herbarium, which was considered to be one of the finest in the United Kingdom.

The fire was discovered by a warden of the county gaol named Byrne, who at about six o'clock observed smoke issuing out of the western wing of the building, and immediately acquainted the governor of the gaol of the fact, and also gave the alarm to the officials of the college. The president of the college, Sir Robert Kane, and the vice-president, Dr. Ryall, were both in bed in their apartments at the time. They of course instantly got up, as did all the other persons who reside there. On investigation it was seen that the fire was nearing the corridor and spreading rapidly; and under four of the doors in the corridor bunches of matches, rolled up in paper, and some of them half consumed, were found, and the bottom of the doors charred and burned. One door had especially suffered from the fire caused by the matches, two large indentations being

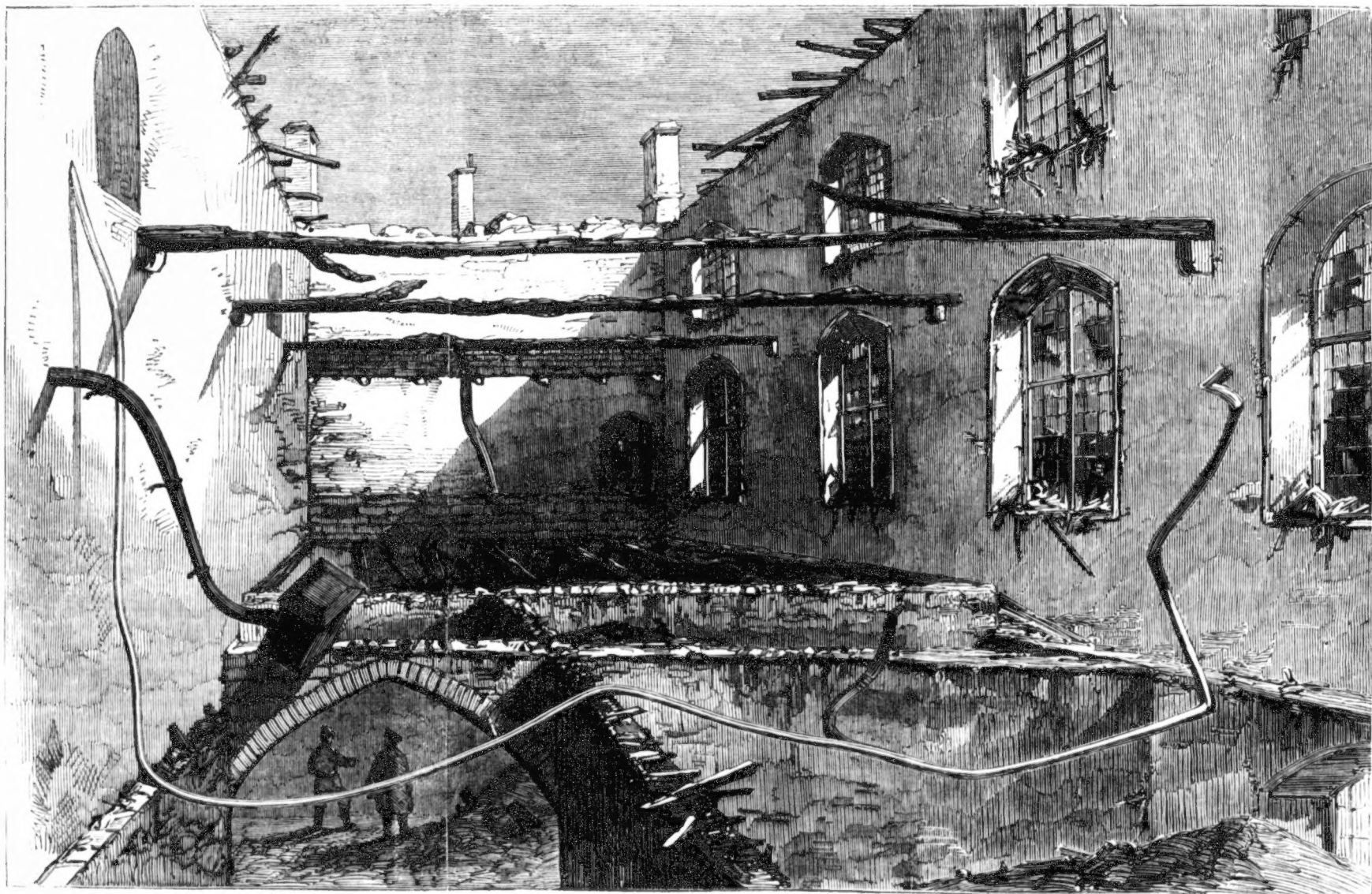


BURSTING OF THE MIDDLE-LEVEL SLUICE ON THE WEST BANK OF THE RIVER OUSE.

burned in the lower edge of it. This circumstance has created the suspicion that the fire was the act of an incendiary; and it is borne out by the fact that four of the doors in the corridor were fired, and they were the only ones that had timber underneath them. A strict investigation into the circumstances under which the fire occurred is being made, and it is to be hoped that, if it shall turn out to have been wilfully caused, the perpetrators of the outrage will

be discovered and punished. Fire-engines were soon on the spot, but the fire raged so furiously that there was no hope of saving the wing, and all that could be done was to prevent the flames communicating with the other parts of the building, which was fortunately done. The scene presented by the smoking ruins to a beholder from the tower was truly lamentable. The once fine building, with all its apartments stored with the fruits of the researches of years, was now

reduced to a heap of smouldering ruins, with nothing but the walls standing. On close investigation it has been ascertained that the damage caused has been less than was at first believed, and it is now estimated that between £5000 and £6000 will completely cover it. The President, Sir Robert Kane, has issued a notice intimating that the educational course of the college will suffer no interruption from the accident.



FIRE AT QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CORK.—INTERIOR OF THE CHEMICAL LECTURE-ROOM.



INTERIOR OF THE NETHERLANDS COURT IN THE GREAT EXHIBITION,

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

We resume our account of the contents of the Great Exhibition, still confining ourselves mainly to British products. The foreign department we shall deal with more in detail when the various courts are completed. We shall have occasion, from time to time, to revert at greater length to some of the sections now briefly described.

PHILOSOPHICAL INSTRUMENTS.

In class 13, for philosophical instruments and the processes depending on their use, there are all descriptions of philosophical

and optical instruments; electric telegraph apparatus, including M. Caselli's pantagraph, which transmits autographic messages, thereby avoiding all risk of error; models of engines; and among the exhibitors are all the celebrated makers of instruments, and many private gentlemen. The great improvements and numerous inventions in electric telegraphy during the past ten years are shown by the various new instruments exhibited by the Universal Private Telegraph, the Electric Telegraph, the British and Irish, the Submarine, and other companies. Mr. Wheatstone's in-

genious and beautiful domestic telegraphs are shown in working order, and many inventions add contrivances to utilise this valuable discovery are to be seen in this class. Microscopes form a prominent feature; the great makers exhibiting microscopes of all kinds, from that intended to assist the researches of the most scientific physiologist to the more humble instrument made for the student. There is a very interesting series of photographic views of the late total eclipse of the sun as seen in Spain. The Kew Observatory, under the management of a committee of the British Association



PORCELAIN FROM THE ROYAL MANUFACTORY, BERLIN, IN THE GREAT EXHIBITION.

for the Advancement of Science, contributes a beautiful series of instruments for the automatic registration of the variations of magnetometers.

PHOTOGRAPHY.

The photographic section class 11—divides the space of the central tower with the educational department. It may almost be said to form a new class, for, although the talbotype paper process was shown in 1851, the collodion process was not invented until the middle of that year. The section comprises a large and perfect collection of photographic apparatus and appliances, a great variety of tents and outdoor contrivances.

HOROLOGICAL INSTRUMENTS.

Class 15, comprising horological instruments, occupies a place in the north gallery. The greatest novelties are improved designs rather than new movements, though several clocks are exhibited constructed to go more than twelve months. One exhibitor sends an astronomical clock, impelled by gravitation, which requires no oil to the escapement; and another exhibitor has sent a clock which shows the time and longitude at important places. A large number of electro-magnetic clocks are exhibited, with some mercurial time-pieces, some steam or speed clocks; a geographical clock, showing the time throughout the world; and a new balance constructed to resist all extremes of temperature. Under what may be called the fine arts of watchmaking, many manufacturers exhibit some very rich examples of heraldic enamelling and engraving.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

Class 16, musical instruments, promises to be as popular in 1862 as it was in 1851. An oak piano of the time of Charles I. is shown, and an historical series of pianos, from the old harpsichord—the favourite of our great-grandmothers—down to the improved instrument of the present day. In one part of this collection is a self-blowing harmonium, the wind for which is supplied by clockwork; in another part is a group of Æolian harps, and in another corner is a double bass with a remarkably ingenious apparatus for producing enharmonic scales of harmonics. Many valuable improvements in the mechanism of pianos are exhibited, and the inner machinery of these domestic instruments is shown from the first stage to the last. An oblique piano, with a new action, is a novelty in its way, and also some metal bagpipes, suitable for tropical climates.

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS AND APPLIANCES.

Class 17 is devoted to the exhibition of surgical instruments and appliances. In the list of exhibitors in this class are to be found the names of nearly all the important instrument-makers of England; and the objects exhibited show how much ingenuity and skill can be exercised in the invention of instruments to aid the surgeon in removing disease and in diminishing suffering and distortion. When the mind has fairly grasped the immense benefit which the surgeon is capable of conferring on his fellow-creatures, it can realise the importance to mankind of such instruments as are exhibited in this class; and the International Exhibition of 1862 will fairly demonstrate how much originality in invention, and how much perfection in manufacture, have been reached during the past eleven years.

TEXTILE FABRICS.

The textile division of the exhibition, comprising classes 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 27, is under the management of Mr. George Wallis. These classes include cotton, flax and hemp, silk and velvet, woollen, worsted, and mixed fabrics generally; carpets, woven, spun, fitted, and laid fabrics shown as specimens of printing and dyeing; tapestry, lace, and embroidery, and articles of clothing. They are located in the south-eastern gallery, and thus occupy one-half of the space on the south side of the great nave, the other half being devoted to foreign productions. The arrangements commence with the class for printing and dyeing (class 23); and in this the productions of Manchester and Glasgow form the leading features, and, in combination with the printed table-covers and bandanas of the London houses, constitute the staple of the exhibits, the illustrations of dyeing not being very numerous. Cotton manufactures succeed, and in this class, too, the manufactures of Manchester and Glasgow, with the sewing threads of Leicester, Paisley, and Huddersfield, constitute the leading features. In the cross gallery leading from the gallery next the nave to that along the north wall of the picture gallery, lace, tapestry, and embroidery (class 24) are placed. Nottingham, London, and Dublin are here effectively represented by a remarkable display of lace goods of all kinds and qualities. The productions of hand-laceworkers of Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, and Northamptonshire are also located here.

Woolens, worsted, and mixed fabrics (class 20) are arranged along the remainder of the gallery next the nave and continued to the eastern dome, and thence along the cross gallery next the south-eastern transept. The manufactures of the West Riding of Yorkshire, the west of England, and the metropolis, occupy space to the staircase at the side of the dome, Norwich fabrics being placed across the angle of the gallery, and at the back the poplins of Dublin and the shawls of Paisley. Glasgow manufactures in this class are placed next the transept, and the coarser woollens and mixtures of Scotland, together with the blankets and flannels of Rochdale and Witney, and a collection of yarns from various quarters, complete the arrangements of this department.

Class 19—linen, flax, and hemp manufactures—follows woollens; the coarser fabrics, with cordage, mats, &c., being placed in the remaining portion of the cross gallery, and a portion of the gallery against the north wall of the picture saloons. Here, and on the western side, the fine fabrics of linen and damasks are to be found, finishing with a very extensive display from the north of Ireland.

The silk manufactures of Great Britain are located against the north wall of the picture-gallery; and a complete collective display of nearly every class of silk goods manufactured in London, Macclesfield, and Manchester, together with the ribbons of Coventry and the spun silks and thrown silks of Leek and Derby, forms one of the great features of the textile division.

Class 25, in the south-east transept, under the superintendence of Mr. Weld, is very full and complete, every branch of trade in this class being well represented. A great ostrich feather trophy is the most striking object shown.

In class 26, which adjoins that of feathers, are shown all kinds of undressed and dressed leather and skins. Some attractive trophies of this class of goods are shown in the nave. Saddlery and harness of all kinds worthily sustain the reputation of our English saddlers.

The class for clothing (class 27), divided into four sub-classes—viz., hats, millinery, and artificial flowers, general clothing, and boots and shoes—is well arranged in the extreme angle of the south-eastern transept gallery. Boots and shoes are placed along the south end of the transept; next to these gloves and hosiery, and the variety of articles coming under the head of general clothing. Millinery and artificial flowers, and, finally, hats and caps, complete the arrangements to the end of the gallery next to the eastern dome. The most defective parts of the textile division are those of calico-printing and cotton manufactures. Neither of the displays conveys a fair idea of the extent and importance of these industries.

THE NETHERLANDS COURT.

The collection from Holland, as far as manufactures and raw produce are concerned, is very complete. There are some handsome specimens of lacquer-ware from Rotterdam, much more elegant and pleasing than those which are to be found in the Japanese court, but scarcely equal to them in solidity of workmanship. The furniture, too, is of a high class; the woods chiefly employed are amboyna-wood, rosewood, and palisander; and the ingenuity shown in the way of secret drawers and other contrivances is so elaborate that visitors will fail to perceive all the excellences of the sideboards, buffets, &c., unless a special attendant is appointed to unravel them. Perhaps the finest works of art in the court are a very beautifully-carved oak pulpit and a shrine intended for a church in Brabant, and which form prominent objects in our illustration of this court. There are also some excellent photographs from rare paintings by Rembrandt and Ostade, and so clearly are even the finest

strokes brought out that it is almost impossible to distinguish them from the originals. The curious structures of brass and wire with which the Dutch peasant women bind their brows are amply illustrated, and the case containing them will, no doubt, afford considerable amusement to those who see them here for the first time. There are two or three very fine specimens of Dutch carpet manufactures; one in particular, from its great size and agreeable colours, deserves notice. A machine for teaching school children their notes, which is in the same case, is a very ingenious and entirely new invention. It is no larger than a good-sized musical-box; on the face is printed the gamut, and on turning a handle the barrel inside runs up and down the scale, while a movable finger in the front indicates each note as the appropriate sound is given out. Among other pieces of educational machinery may be noticed a very simple contrivance for explaining the principles and action of the thermometer, and close by hang several educational maps of great interest. A very important part of the Dutch display is the preserved meats and vegetables, some of which have made a voyage to Batavia and back before being sent here, and seem none the worse. In the application of the arts to the manufacture of the sweetmeats the department seems to be unrivalled, and many of the designs are most elaborate and ambitious. A hafter of Amsterdam shows a case of cork hats weighing only two ounces each; and of the Dutch specialty of brush manufactures there is a very ample collection. Among the textile fabrics the blankets attract most notice, especially from the ladies; some of them are of extraordinary thickness, and, far from displaying a uniform whiteness, as with us, the patterns are of the gaudiest hues. The linen fabrics are not very largely represented, but there is a case of beautiful hand-made lace from the south of Holland which is almost equal to anything displayed from the neighbouring country of Belgium. The agricultural implements do not show any great amount of skill or ingenuity, but a model of a rick-thatching machine, which can be moved up and down to any height by the simplest machinery, appears to be a novelty here, though it is said to be in common use by the Dutch agriculturists. Of the carriages shown, which are all very handsomely decorated, it will be enough to say that the great majority of them are already sold.

Mr. Coster, of Amsterdam, exhibits a large brilliant, "The Star of the South," the joint property of shareholders in England, France, Holland, and Brazil. Thus much we discovered on subsequent inquiry, for the intelligent policeman to whom we first addressed ourselves gave us information of an infinitely vaguer character, and, moreover, somewhat staggering to our preconceived views of European affairs. Interrogated by us as to the ownership of the gem, he at first responded that it belonged to the Netherlands Company; further urged to explain what the said Netherlands Company might be, he replied, "Why, you see, Sir, I don't rightly know, but I've heard that the Netherlands is a joint-stock company that makes Holland." "The Star of the South" weighs 125 carats—22½ more than the Koh-i-noor in its present form—and is set in a star of brilliants; but its colour is a pinkish white, and it lacks the brilliance which is coupled with entire absence of colour. In the same case is displayed a very interesting collection of diamonds in various stages, from the rough state to the most perfect finish, illustrating the processes of cutting, and showing the different forms into which the gem is fashioned.

THE PRUSSIAN COURT.

In approaching the Prussian court we find next to the French gates a large and well-executed model of the Bourse at Berlin, the arrangement of which is made easily comprehensible by a ground plan. This, with a couple of tombstones, possessing no very remarkable characteristics, and a fine sheet of plate glass, constitute nearly the whole of the Prussian trophy, which certainly does not stand out well in comparison with those of some other nations. In the Prussian court, however, there is a very fine display of porcelain from Berlin, the execution and decoration of which is very superior indeed, though it can hardly be said that in any respect the Berlin productions surpass those in this department contributed by the manufacturers of our own and of some other countries. Our illustration represents this collection of Berlin porcelain, the two principal vases shown being covered with figures very beautifully painted. These vases are said to be of the value of £350 each.

FRENCH ARTISTS AND ENGLISH CERAMIC MANUFACTURES.

The Paris *Constitutionnel* has a letter on the London exhibition, purporting to be written by an Englishman, which aims at proving that nearly all the merit of the principal English departments is due to the Frenchmen employed. The writer states that, wishing to see if the assertion of the London papers was true that the Worcester china was equal to that of Sevres, he went himself to examine Minton's display, and found the finest of his works signed "Lessoré." Thinking that the name had a French look, he addressed himself to a person whose acquaintance he had accidentally made, and consulted him on the subject:—

"I saw him walking round (says the writer) and observed to him that I could not see any reason why the English should not succeed in the ceramic art as well as the French. "Look," I said, "is it possible to find a more complete collection of splendid vases, of admirably-modelled groups, of finer material, or of purer designs and better shaded colours?" "True," he replied, with a Mephistophelian smile; "but all the best and finest are due to French artists; it is the indifferent descriptions which are of native manufacture." "That is a judgment that I should only accept after proofs." "Are you acquainted with history?" "A little." "You know, then, by what means the Romans conquered the world. From the Greeks they borrowed the heavy phalanx in battle, from the Cretans their archers, from the Carthaginians their three-oreed galleys and light cavalry, from the Gauls their long swords, and from the Thessalians their large bucklers. In the arts, in letters, in rhetoric they owed everything to the artists and professors of Greece. Well, the English proceed in the same manner. At every political and social perturbation that takes place in France—and Heaven knows if that strange country is chary of that kind of amusement—numbers of skilful artists and clever workmen are scattered abroad. In 1848, for example, English pottery, although making great progress, was a hundred years from what it is now. But under the shock of that immense commotion French artists, who were for the most part reduced to a difficult existence, turned their steps principally towards England. That country opened her arms to them, and remunerated them magnificently while turning their talent to account. Who was it that executed Storr and Mortimer's splendid exhibition in 1851? Vehté, a Frenchman. Who was it that placed Minton at such an elevated position in the industrial solemnity of that period? Arnould, from the Sevres manufactory; Eugène Jeannet, and ten other Frenchmen, who had voluntarily exiled themselves. You see that splendid vase there—Minton's principal piece? It is by Carrier; the candelabra by Eugène Phénix, and the others by Hugues Protat. Now let us turn to the Wedgwood department. All that porcelain is decorated by Lessoré. Other artists sometimes consent not to sign their works, but Lessoré is obstinate, and prefers giving up his place to not asserting his paternity. Several manufacturers tolerate that presumption in consideration of his talent, and, among others, Phillips, whose finest specimens are by Lessoré. It from the porcelain we pass to the gold and silver work at Elkington's we shall find six French workmen, directed by Morel; and at Hancock's, Lasalle and Vilms. In cabinet-work, at Jackson and Son's, the designer is Poyier, and the modeller Agapthe Phénix; at Jackson and Graham's the designer is Lormier, Protat does the figures, and Phénix the ornaments. Let us now continue our journey. That Etruscan piece of furniture exhibited under the name of Howard was designed by Naudal; it was Prignon who designed that book-case of Wright and Mansfield; this splendid buffet with caryatides was modelled by Phénix; that other walnut sideboard, with the name of James Lamb of Manchester, is from the hands of Hugues Protat. Here is the galvanised iron castings department. Seek out the finest models; they are all by Carrier. As for the bronze ornaments of that furniture and those panels, they are by Mene, another Frenchman, who has for rival Desachy, a former modeller of the School of Fine Arts at Paris. Last week the correspondent of the *Constitutionnel* was in ecstasies on the English bronzes ornamenting the four columns of the stand of M. Emanuel. These bronzes, modelled by Klakman, a Frenchman, are simply of *canton-pierre*. It is thus that history is written!" "But that beautiful piece of marqueterie—that imitation of a piece of rose-silk of such a beautiful shade and such wonderful reality—that is native, for Kershaw is not a French name." "Yes, Kershaw is an English painter in marqueterie, whose incontestable merit is only contested in order to be the better taken advantage of. Kershaw is a long distance in advance of the other artists of his own or any other country in his peculiar art. Neither Paris, Berlin, nor Vienna has any one to oppose him in marqueterie-painting. It is the only superiority that I allow you." "But all those French artists are not performing an act of patriotism in leaving their country and in initiating foreigners into pro-

ceedings of which they are ignorant." "My dear sir, your simplicity surprises me. Where Paris pays 3000*fr.* a year England pays from 15,000*fr.* to 20,000*fr.*"

Messrs. W. H. Kerr and Co., of the Royal Porcelain Works, Worcester, write to say that the writer of the above article seems to confound Worcester with Staffordshire. They add:—"Permit us to state that we have no Frenchmen in our employment. Our choicest works are, and have been, executed by British hands."

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1862.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

WHAT is to be done with the British Museum? The question is one which really requires some kind of a solution, and that speedily. A Ministry, perhaps the most popular, because generally the most attentive to the popular character, of any known for years, has suffered a defeat to an extent almost ignominious upon this subject.

The question is one in which the educated and the uneducated are each interested in their own way. To the latter class the Museum is nothing beyond a great show, with the recommendation of being free of charge. They crowd the halls on holidays, staring at Nineveh bulls, stuffed boa constrictors, Elgin marbles, paste models of diamonds, and Sandwich Island deities, with an equal degree of appreciation. The children are dragged through with some vague parental idea that it may do them some good in the educational way. To the parents themselves the greatest attraction is, after all, that the recreation is cheap, and that there is no temptation to buy buns or beer; but as to expansion of the intellect, we must beg to be allowed to hazard a doubt of the efficacy of a visit to the Museum by mere sight-seekers. The mind must be to some extent educated before it can derive benefit from information even so palpably set out as in the Museum.

To educated visitors this truly magnificent national collection presents other charms. The student in almost every branch of art or science may there reap the benefit of the labours of others who have trodden before him the paths which he has selected for his career; but even for his case it is possible that the means taken for his enlightenment may be inordinately large for the result. It may be necessary, for instance, that the library should be, as far as it may, complete; but when, in order to effect this result, the nation is bound to provide house-room, arrangement, and system of reference for every volume of trash which any wretched plagiarist, jester, bore, poetaster, or maniac may choose to publish between two covers, the system entails a certain loss to the nation without the slightest benefit to a single individual. It is this fact, exhibited under another aspect, which led to the Ministerial defeat of last Monday. Mr. Gladstone was simple-minded enough to call upon the House of Commons for a grant of about £800,000 for the erection of buildings at Kensington to contain an enlargement of the natural-history department, including the specimens at present deposited in Great Russell-street. It is no wonder that the sense of the House revolted from such a proposition. It is rather too much, while Lancashire is starving, to give the wealth of a small principality to stuff and lodge dead whales. Yet this is the purpose for which this enormous sum was proposed mainly to be applied. Professor Owen requires five acres and a half of land covered with buildings, and containing galleries 850*ft.* in length, for the exhibition of defunct *cetacea*. The Professor is, no doubt, a marvellously clever man. He may erect the figure of the megatherium from the sole datum of a single tooth; but, if he can build such an exhibition as he proposes out of what the British public will give him for the purpose of his paleontological feats will fade into significance before his fiscal and architectural achievements.

Mr. Cox, of Finsbury, would prefer the removal of the books and manuscripts to that of the natural-history collection. Of course it is to be easily understood why Mr. Cox's sympathies should incline rather to the thousands who frequent the Museum to stare at distended hides and varnished fish, and who have votes, may be, for Finsbury, than those whose business it is to direct and enlarge the intelligence of the nation, and who for that purpose require to share the experiences of past ages. John Brown dragging his wearied urchins to gape at a gorilla may be to Mr. Cox an object of greater interest than a Macaulay collecting materials for history. But Mr. Cox may place his sympathies where he pleases, so long as we are not bound to fix ours at the direction of Mr. Cox.

We take it as a cheerful sign of the common sense and independence of the House that such a proposition as this of Mr. Gladstone was lost by a majority of more than two to one. But we cannot regret its having been made if it should but serve, as is not improbable, to direct public attention to the nature of the Museum, to its management, and to its expense. In the first place, the Museum is, in certain portions of its

natural-history department, maintaining an unequal, expensive, and useless struggle with that natural decay which is in the essence of things. The Siamese Monarchs wishing to ruin their subordinates presented them with live elephants. These were expensive enough, no doubt, but when they died there was an end. We, more enlightened, propose to bequeath dead elephants to our remotest posterity, and meanwhile to pay for their lodging and keep. By housing them at Kensington, where land is only £10,000 an acre, we shall save, as Mr. Gladstone tells us with the most charming simplicity, on each acre £10,000, inasmuch as in Great Russell-street the land is worth £50,000. A fine notion of economy for a Chancellor of the Exchequer! Now, by burying useless carcasses on the seashore, where the land is worth per acre exactly nothing at all, the whole amount may be saved altogether, and nobody be much the worse.

THE LOUNGER AT THE EXHIBITION.

OF THE FRENCH CONTRIBUTIONS.

Mossoo has at last "ranged himself," and is visitable. His boxes and packing-cases are gone, and he is *en grande forme*. Anybody who knows him will recognise what that means; anybody who has ever seen what he does in a general way will know what he would do on an occasion like this. So, in few words, let me say that his appointments are simply perfection, and that he has "got himself up" in the most elaborate manner. You can tell this in an instant as you approach his court, the outworks of which are formed of a grand screen of tapestry most richly mounted, and have in its fore-closure some most exquisite bits of furniture. This is the joint production of M. Fourdinois and Messrs. Bragliné Frères, the latter the celebrated carpet manufacturers from Aubusson, and the former the great manufacturers of ameublements from the Rue Amelot. "Please observe," as the showmen say, "please observe" an ebony wardrobe which stands here, carved in the most perfect manner, and designed by a true artist. I had a faint notion that such a work of art would look well in my own drawing-room, and I asked the price; but I found it had been already sold to Messrs. Philips for the trifling sum of £1400! And then you pass round into the court, and at once find yourself in the thorough atmosphere of Mossoo-land. Arrangements of the most captivating kind, display, better done than anywhere else throughout the building, some very artistic things, and a great deal of indubitable trumpery. It is in bronzes and what he calls *zinc d'art* that Mossoo's great speciality lies: in the setting of jewellery, in real value of precious stones, in china, in lace (on all of which he has hitherto prided himself immensely), we beat him hollow; but in bronzes he is triumphant. Turn sharp round to the left as you enter the French court, and look at the collection of M. Boy. At the extreme ends of his display you will find two statues, each about 2 ft. high—one of Don Quixote reading the old romances, the other of Mephistophiles wrapped in his cloak—designed by M. Gautier. These statues are of the very highest art. I can scarcely attempt to describe to you the dash and freedom of the first, the enthusiastic, kind recklessness of the Don, or the cold, sneering captiousness, the heartless, self-contained cynicism of the second figure. Between these extremes you will find two others, cast in the same metal, one of a Nubian soldier, the other of a knight with vizor down, both equally remarkable. Passing on, you will imagine that the shops of the Boulevards and the Palais Royal have been transplanted—so thoroughly at home has Mossoo made himself. M. Deniere *filz* has nailed himself in and curtained himself round as though he were never going to leave South Kensington, and he shows bronzes and orures enough to drive you mad, and you long to be possessor of Stafford House, or some such tenement, in order to justify yourself in buying two almost life size figures of negroes bearing candelabra to place in the niches of your hall. Near neighbours here are, first, M. Gille, who deals in porcelain figures; and then the Société Alphonse Pallu, a "limited liability" company who import onyx marble from Algeria, onyx marble being one of the most lovely substances for busts, medallions, bas-reliefs, tazzas, &c., ever seen. A Louis Seize chimney-piece surrounded by a mirror, here exhibited, is perhaps the most thoroughly tasteful thing throughout the entire French collection. Farther back, and requiring to be looked for to be found out, you will see a sideboard by M. Fossey, carved in oak, and complete from top to base; and in it you will notice specially two ancient military figures supporting the back centrepiece, and a panoply of arms most charmingly rendered. In the neighbourhood, also, are two cabinets by M. Cremer (no connection with the toyman, mind!) of wonderfully elaborate conception and workmanship.

What else does French Mossoo exhibit? Everything, of course! Tapestry from Grenoble, so marvellous that you could swear it was rare painting; China from Sèvres, and sham majolica and Paisley ware; clocks of every description; and lamps—where he is excellent; and cutlery and hardware—where he is bad; and diving-dresses and little fore-and-aft hats, and rare silks and lovely lace (not a patch upon our Limerick, though), and a wonderful ecclesiastical corona shown among other good things by M. Barbédienne; and M. Christoffe's jewellery, which is lovely, but the great gem of which, a plateau or centrepiece for the municipal banquet of the Prefet of the Seine, is inharmonious in colour, and generally gimerackey.

At rest, the exhibition, as a whole, is progressing well. On Wednesday the majolica fountain was finished and was playing, somewhat irregularly, it is true, as some of the jets did more than was expected from them and aspersed bonnets and crinolines; but the effect was good. Pianos and organs were at work; but there was less of grinding business and more of grateful pleasure, and the surroundings generally reminded one more of Paxton's palace and '51 than had been the case previously.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

MR. ALFRED RHODES BRISTOW has climbed the greased pole and secured the prize with almost unexampled cleverness and rapidity. In 1859 he went down to Kidderminster to reconnoitre for a friend. Failing to make satisfactory arrangements for his friend, it was suggested that he should stand himself for the borough. He closed with the proposal, beat his opponent, Mr. Huddleston, Q.C., by eight votes, and now he is Solicitor to the Admiralty, with a salary of £1600 a year, with possible pickings in addition. This is a pleasant career pleasantly ended. Mr. Bristow is a solicitor at Greenwich. From this business he will retire in favour of his son. What Mr. Bristow paid for his seat, in shape of election expenses, I cannot say; but, whatever it was, it was money well laid out. In short, Mr. Bristow has made a capital speculation. Colonel Luke White, the rejected of Longford and a Lord of the Treasury, is in the field; but Mr. Huddleston has also made his appearance, and Colonel White's chances are doubtful.

There is also a vacancy for Shrewsbury, caused by the death of good Mr. Slaney. Mr. Slaney went to the opening of the Great Exhibition, fell down there, and grazed his leg. At first the wound was not thought to be important—a mere abrasion of the skin; but erysipelas set in, and in a few days all hope of recovery was gone. Mr. Slaney was one of the most benevolent of men. He was never easy but when he was projecting something for the welfare and happiness of his fellow creatures. Some of his projects were doubtless ill-considered and Utopian; but of the benevolence of the man there never was, and never could have been, but one opinion. Mr. Brassey, son of the great contractor, it is said, will stand for Shrewsbury as the Liberal candidate. Mr. Brassey contested Birkenhead with Mr. Laird.

Who will be the Permanent Assistant Secretary for War in room of Sir Benjamin Hawes, deceased? Rumour points to Sir Charles Trevelyan. Sir Charles was for many years Assistant Secretary at

the Treasury; afterwards he went to India as Governor of Madras, and came to grief by impugning and opposing openly Mr. Wilson's financial projects, and was recalled. Since then he has had no official duties. He is, however, anxious for place, is known to be an able administrator, and I should not be surprised if he were to get this vacant place. It will be remembered that when the Conservatives were in power they tried to shelve Sir Benjamin Hawes, and to place Sir Richard Bromley, the Accountant-General of the Navy, at the War Office. But the pension list was full, and without a pension Sir Benjamin would not budge. The accounts at the War Office at that time were known to be in a chaotic state. Whether they have since been got into order I know not. The appointment of Sir Benjamin Hawes was at the time thought to be one of those jobs which were then so characteristic of the Whigs. Let us hope that time and experience have cured them of this jobbing propensity, and that they will place a really efficient man in this most important situation.

Mr. Cobden's remarkable pamphlet, to which I called attention when it appeared, is producing fruits. Dr. Sach has certainly studied it, and I rather suspect that it has inspired him to make those wonderful speeches on retrenchment with which he has lately astonished the House; but, however this may be, it is certain that he has read the book, and has largely used the information which it contains. Cobden has done many wonderful things, but if it should turn out that he has converted another Conservative leader, truly that would be the most wonderful of all his achievements.

"No man is always wise," says a Latin proverb familiar to all schoolboys and the oracular *Saturday Review* sometimes blunders. For example, it tells Mr. Stansfeld, in its characteristic taunting manner, that his proposal to move an abstract resolution in favour of the reduction of our expenditure is a mistake; that he ought, if he wishes for economy, to oppose the Estimates, &c. Now, this shows no small ignorance in the writer in the *Saturday Review*. The state of the case is this: It has long come to be known that to strike off anything considerable from the votes would involve great inconvenience, and in many cases gross injustice—inconvenience, because all the arrangements of the departments for the year have been made upon the basis of these Estimates; injustice, because, if you strike off a large sum, you necessarily cause the immediate discharge of a number of officials without notice; and these considerations I happen to know have had such force that many of the most ardent of our advocates of retrenchment have refused to vote for a reduction of the Estimates. Well, Mr. Stansfeld acknowledges the force of this objection. "I see," he says, "that we cannot reduce the votes of the year when they come before us. But this we can do—we can propose a general resolution, and if we pass that, it will be the duty of the Government to take warning and frame their Estimates next year in accordance with these resolutions; and if they do not, why, then we must see who is to control the expenditure—the Government or the House of Commons." This is in effect Mr. Stansfeld's answer to his opponents, and, having given this matter some consideration, I venture to assert that it is complete, and that the step which he has taken is not only politic but perfectly constitutional.

I am informed—though I cannot vouch for the literal truth of the statement—that the Savage Club entertainment for the foreign journalists will take place at the London; that other clubs are about to adopt a like course; and that, moreover, it is even proposed to form an artists' and literary club as a place of rendezvous and reunion for foreigners of note in these walks. This idea, if carried out, which I hope it will be, would do much to rescue poor "Mossoo" from his confinement to the region of Leicester-square, and enable him to see something of the real life of London as lived by intelligent Londoners.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews have commenced a new entertainment at her Majesty's Concert Rooms which promises to be very attractive. The first portion of it is cast in the Old World, and introduces, as usual, a set of impossible characters without any real link of connection. An exception, however, must be made in favour of an old charwoman a lairily delineated by Mr. Mathews. The second part, called "The Sensation Fork," is a skit upon the sensation dramas of the present day, full of the wildest fun and best-humoured satire, capably written by Mr. Byron and acted with the greatest spirit by Mr. and Mrs. Mathews.

Mr. Fechter has left the Princess's. Mr. and Mrs. Kean appear there to-night (Saturday).

The number of music-halls and other places of public amusement not strictly theatrical is increasing so rapidly that it is utterly impossible for one person to regularly visit them all. A few of the more prominent, however, deserve occasional notice; and among these the Alhambra occupies a prominent place. The amusements provided here are of the most extensive and varied character: operatic music, with Miss Rebecca Isaacs and Miss Amy Bitson as leaders of the vocalists; buffo singing, with Mrs. J. F. Brian and Messrs. Wieland and Critchfield as the leading performers; and instrumental music, in which the brothers Shapcott and the tiny three-year-old drummer are most eminent; but gymnastics and athletic performances are the great features of the place. In this department the feats of "Little Nathalie" are certainly, for a girl and a mere child, the most marvellous I have ever seen. She goes through a variety of gymnastic evolutions in which it is difficult which most to admire, the muscular power displayed, or the coolness, grace, and elegance with which the feats are performed. Considering her sex and age, Miss Nathalie may well be described as the "Queen of Gymnasts." In this line there are also the "Wondrous Julien," who does the flying trapeze performance after the manner of Leotard; D'Alberte, the "only rival of Blondin," as the programme has it, who goes through all the feats on the tight-rope usually associated with the name of the hero of Niagara; and Mr. Steve Ethair, who certainly makes his globe travel about in a way most extraordinary. There are other minor performers whom I cannot notice in detail; but I may remark that I doubt very much if the contortions represented under the character of the gorilla are such as that now celebrated "party" would be likely, in his native wilds, to disport himself in.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE performance of Verdi's cantata at Her Majesty's Theatre has been put off until this evening, when it will certainly be produced, with Mdlle. Titiens in the part originally intended for Tamberlik.

The Crystal Palace profits, both directly and indirectly, by the International Exhibition. The foreign visitors, unless absurdly ill advised, make a point of going to Sydenham; and, when there—whatever they may have thought of Captain Powke's monster shed cannot fail to be struck by the marvellous beauty of the fairylike building erected by Paxton. Indeed, the more they have been disappointed by the former the more they will be agreeably surprised by the latter. Then the Crystal Palace has now the advantage of being able to perform the instrumental music written for the opening of the International Exhibition by Meyerbeer and Auher; and through Meyerbeer—attracted to this country by the International Exhibition—it has secured the privilege of introducing to England the march produced by that composer in honour of the coronation of the Prussian King. This magnificent composition was executed for the first time before an English audience last Saturday, when the Palace was thronged with visitors, who testified their admiration by the most enthusiastic applause. The march, in obedience to the general demand, was then repeated. The principal vocalists on this occasion were the duet-singing sisters Marchisio, who, faithful to their Rossinian sympathies, executed "Giorno d'Orrore" from "Semiramide," and "Quis est homo," from the "Stabat Mater," from beginning to end, and produced even a greater effect the second time of performance than the first.

The present season will be an admirable one for pianists, or at least for pianoforte-playing. Stephen Heller, who, like Chopin (to whose school, if an artist of such strong individuality as Chopin could have

founded a school, he would belong), is better known as a composer than as a performer, has already appeared, and has delighted all who have heard him with his graceful, sentimental, quasi elegiac talent.

The vigorous Mr. Charles Halle, who is, fortunately, always amongst us, and who, indeed, from a German may now be said to have become half an Englishman, recommences next Friday his performance of Beethoven's sonatas, and (as last year) will go through the whole collection in eight concerts. It is curious simply as an exhibition of musical memory, to see and hear Mr. Halle play all Beethoven's pianoforte solos without book. It is delightful to amateurs to hear them executed with the taste and feeling which Mr. Halle displays in rendering them; while to intelligent pupils such performances are of inestimable value as affording, to those who can profit by them, the best possible lessons.

Liszt, whose name correctly pronounced is (*Germanic*) *light*, which, being interpreted, means "light"—which signifies, as connected with the great Hungarian pianist, all possible brilliance—is to play for about two hours three days a week at the International Exhibition, the fashionable hours of the other three days being devoted to Herr Pauer, the Professor at the Royal Academy of Music. Liszt (we must not call him "Herr," for he is a Magyar, and hates the Germans, and the Hungarian equivalent for "Mr." is unknown to us) is engaged, not by the international commissioners, but by the principal pianoforte-makers, such as Broadwood and Collard, and including, it is said, by Liszt himself. It is to be feared that his performances will have the effect of taking away a great deal of attention from the industrial objects comprised in the exhibition. It is also to be dreaded that the brilliant execution of Liszt may lead to some bitter deceptions in the hearts of a great many estimable private families. A paterfamilias from Lancashire or Yorkshire hearing Liszt produce the sound of a full orchestra from a piano, esteeming something more than a hundred pounds will buy it for his daughters. The poor young ladies will try their weak fantasias on the magnificent instrument, and the paterfamilias will find the sound thereof feeble indeed. Either the poor young ladies or the magnificent instrument will come in for a considerable amount of blame, and more than one purchaser of an exhibition piano will vote Liszt a magnificent impostor.

Sigismund Thalberg, the greatest of all pianists—brilliant, expressive (remarkable, above all, for the vocal style of his execution), delicate, tremendous—in short, a great pianist in all manners—gives four concerts at the Hanover square Rooms, which, we fancy, will not be empty on those occasions. Those who really care for perfect pianoforte-playing will not lose this opportunity of hearing Sigismund Thalberg, whose visits of late years have not been too frequent to London. The full programmes of Thalberg's concerts have not yet appeared, but, certainly, one of the most interesting will be that at which "the art of singing applied to the piano" is to be performed.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE improvement in the health of King Leopold of Belgium is so decided that no further bulletins will be issued.

GENERAL GARIBOLDI'S HEALTH has not improved. Rheumatism confines him to his bed, but his medical attendant answers for his speedy recovery.

THE GREAT EASTERN is advertised to leave New York for England on the 31st inst.

LAST YEAR the number of coolie emigrants sent from India to British Guiana was 5929; to Trinidad, 2325; to Jamaica, 1718; to St. Kitt's, 361; and to St. Vincent, 258.

AT BRITISH GUIANA fears were entertained of a rising of the creole population against the Portuguese.

THE SEASON has been very favourable for the deer in the Scotch forests. The reports from the moors are also very favourable, and bespeak good prospects for sportsmen.

PROCEEDINGS have been commenced against no fewer than twenty-seven in liv duels alleged to have been implicated in the election riot which took place at Great Grimsby in February last.

AT A RECENT SLAVE SALE IN TEXAS five negroes sold for 7040 dol.

A REPORT IS CURRENT IN PARIS that the Fey of Tunis has accepted an invitation to visit Paris in June, and that his Highness will then go to London to see the Universal Exhibition.

MR. GEORGE FORBES, the contractor for the great outfall work at Farnham in connection with the Metropolitan Main Drainage, has contracted to pave and drain Odessa. The cost is estimated at £200,000.

AN ENGLISH INSURANCE OFFICE paid £5000 for losses sustained by the great fire in Jamaica, and property in Jamaica was immediately insured in that office to the amount of £10,000.

A MAN WAS RUN OVER and cut to pieces on Saturday by a train on the Nidd Valley Railway. He was a master mason named Cowling.

THE MINISTER OF MARINE, says a Paris letter, will shortly go to Cherbourg, in order to be present at the launching of two new iron-plated frigates built after the model of the Gloire and the Normandie.

AN INHABITANT OF ROCHELLE, after ten years of most laborious study and experiment, has discovered a mode, by means of electricity, of instantaneously concentrating all the guns of a ship of war on any given point.

MRS. REYNOLDS, wife of a Lieutenant in an Illinois regiment, has been made a Major for gallant conduct in the field and attending to the wounded and dying.

MR. GEORGE CORSIAM, of Lower Eaton-street, Belgrave-square, London, a gentleman well known in amateur musical circles, died a few days ago from the effect of poison administered to him by mistake.

THE COMPANIES OF ROYAL ENGINEERS lately dispatched to Canada are employed, without intermission, in strengthening the fortifications and erecting new defences along the line of the British frontier.

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY of the birth of Pope Pius IX. has just been celebrated at Rome.

MR. WOOLNER has been selected to execute the statue of Lord Macaulay, which is to be placed in the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE AUSTRIAN CHAMBER has just adopted with regard to the Bank the principle admitted in England that, beyond a certain amount, the notes in circulation must be covered by a metallic reserve. It has decided that the amount of notes above 200 millions of florins must be represented in the coffers of the bank either in specie or in bullion.

TWO WORKMEN suffered a horrible death near Cleckheaton on Monday night. An explosion took place at the Highfield Chemical Works near that place, and a large quantity of boiling tar was thrown over them. The accident happened about eight o'clock, and the young men died at midnight.

PRINCE DOLGOROUKOW'S NEW WORK ON RUSSIA, "Reforms in Russia, followed by an account of the Russian States-General in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries," which was published in Brussels a few days ago, has been prohibited from entering France.

THE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN are making grand preparations to receive their Swedish and Norwegian colleagues, who are expected to arrive in the Danish capital on the 12th of June. The students of Upsal (three hundred in number) have engaged for their private use the Sweba steamboat.

THE EXPERIMENTAL GUN-BOT ENTERPRISE, about to be constructed under the superintendence of Mr. Besi, is ordered to be laid down without delay on one of the buildingships in Deptford dockyard. Her length, it is stated, will be 140 ft.

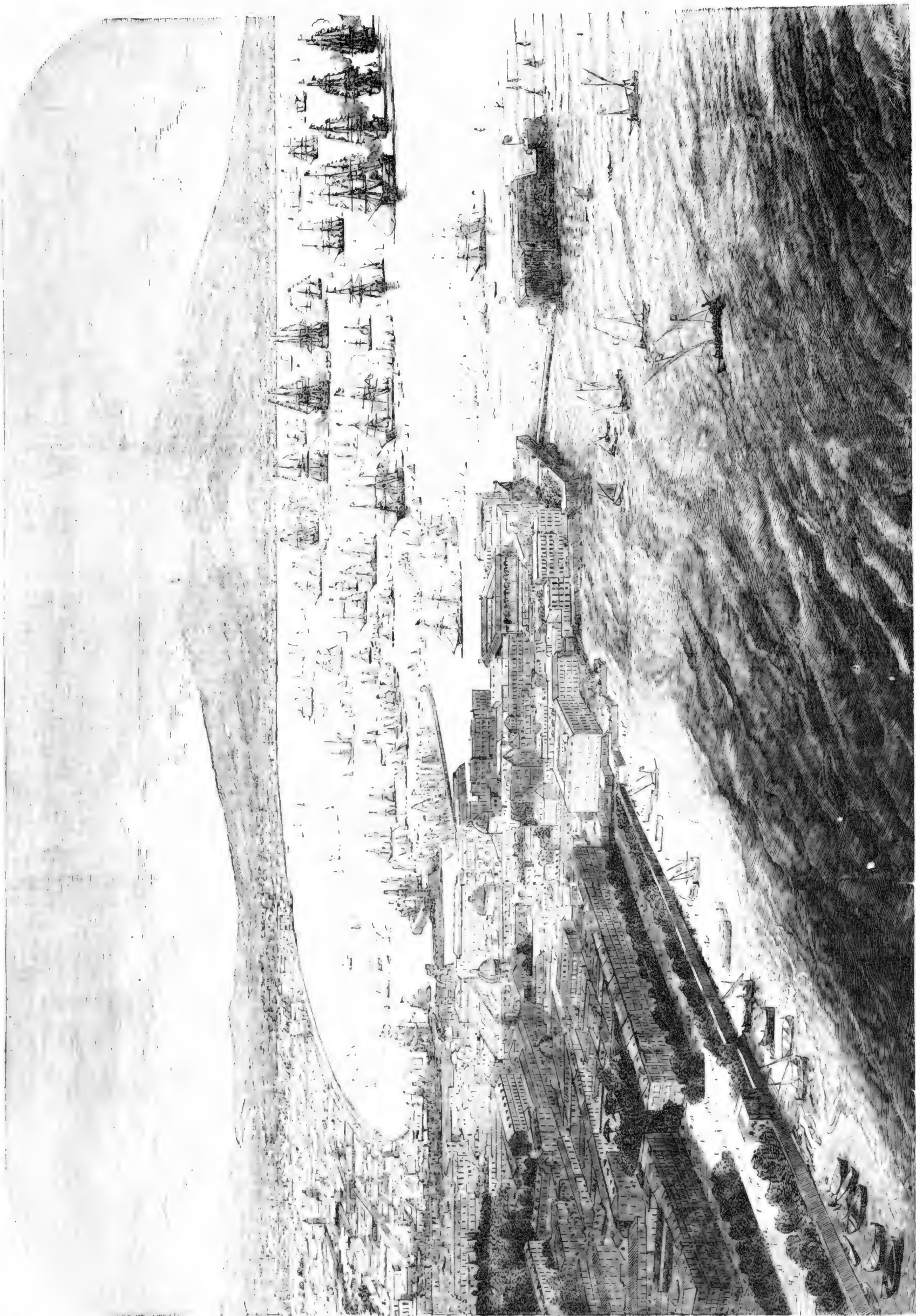
THE CONFEDERATE ALMANAC for 1862, published by the Rev. Dr. Sumners, announces an "eclipse of the sun, visible over the Confederate States." To this the *Yankee Union* adds, that about the same time "there will be a total eclipse of the Confederate States, visible over all creation."

A PAPER has been presented to Parliament containing a curious calculation, that such is the error in the indexes and abstract-books of the office for the registry of deeds in Dublin that the time required for putting them into a complete state would be equal to "the time of one person for 300 years."

ON MONDAY three ships were posted at Lloyd's as missing—a notification implying that all hopes of their ever being heard of is past, namely, the Britia, Isabella, and Tiberius, all homeward bound from New York to Liverpool. They were, with their cargoes, insured at Lloyd's.

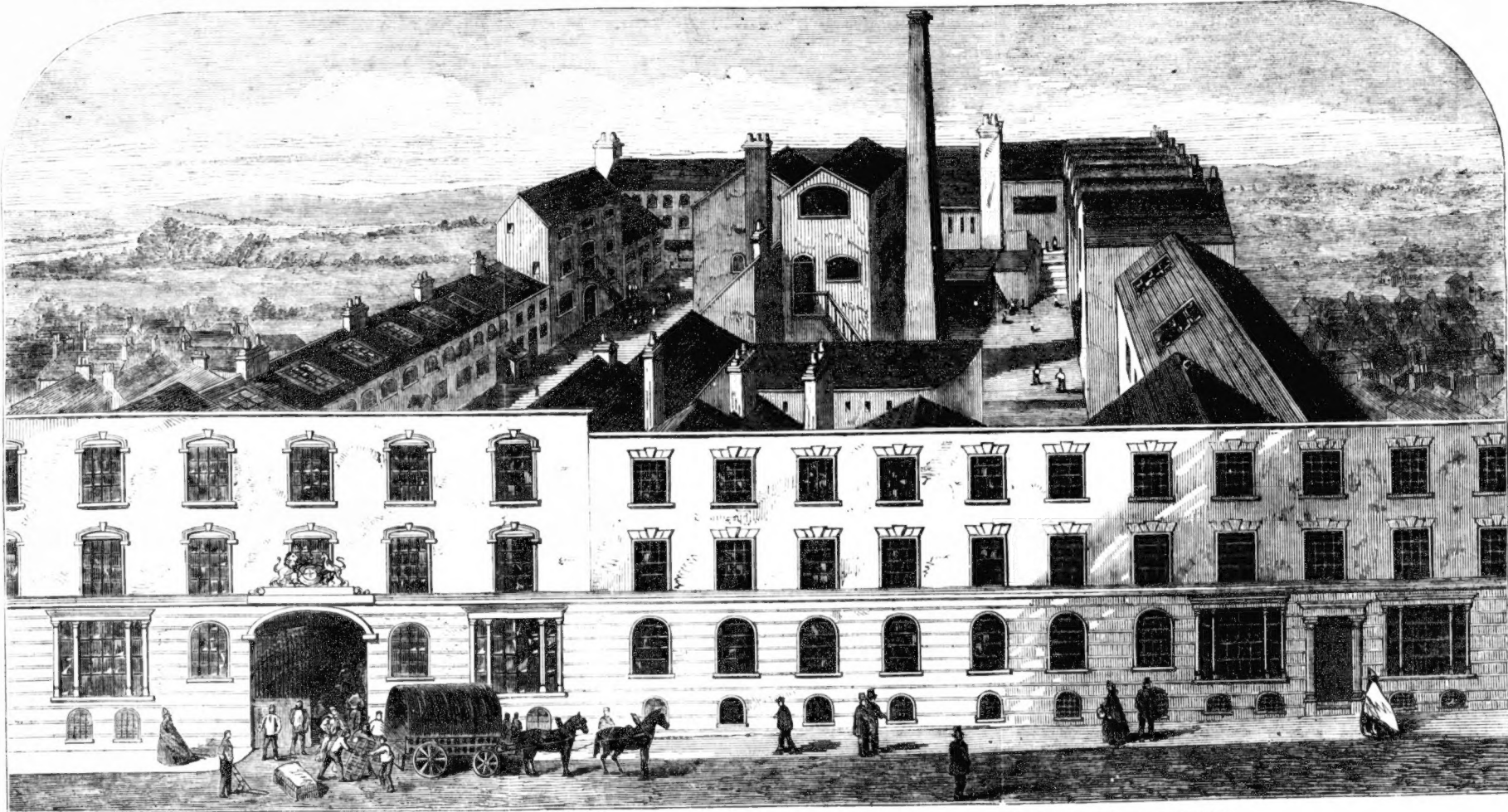
BY THE END OF LAST YEAR, six months short of a quarter of a century, the following astounding number of names had been registered and transmitted to Somerset House: Persons married, 7,282,700; persons deceased, 9,605,556—in all, 16,971,026, or more than the entire population of the United Kingdom at this day.

THE WANDERER OF A LADY OF FASHION was sold in London last week. The salesroom glittered with rich and gay colour, Geneva velvets, brocade silks, satins, cashmires, laces, mingled together in strange variety. There were in all two hundred dresses of every variety of material and value, and they realised between £200 and £300. One of the lots was a modiste and a ladies' with turquoise buttons.



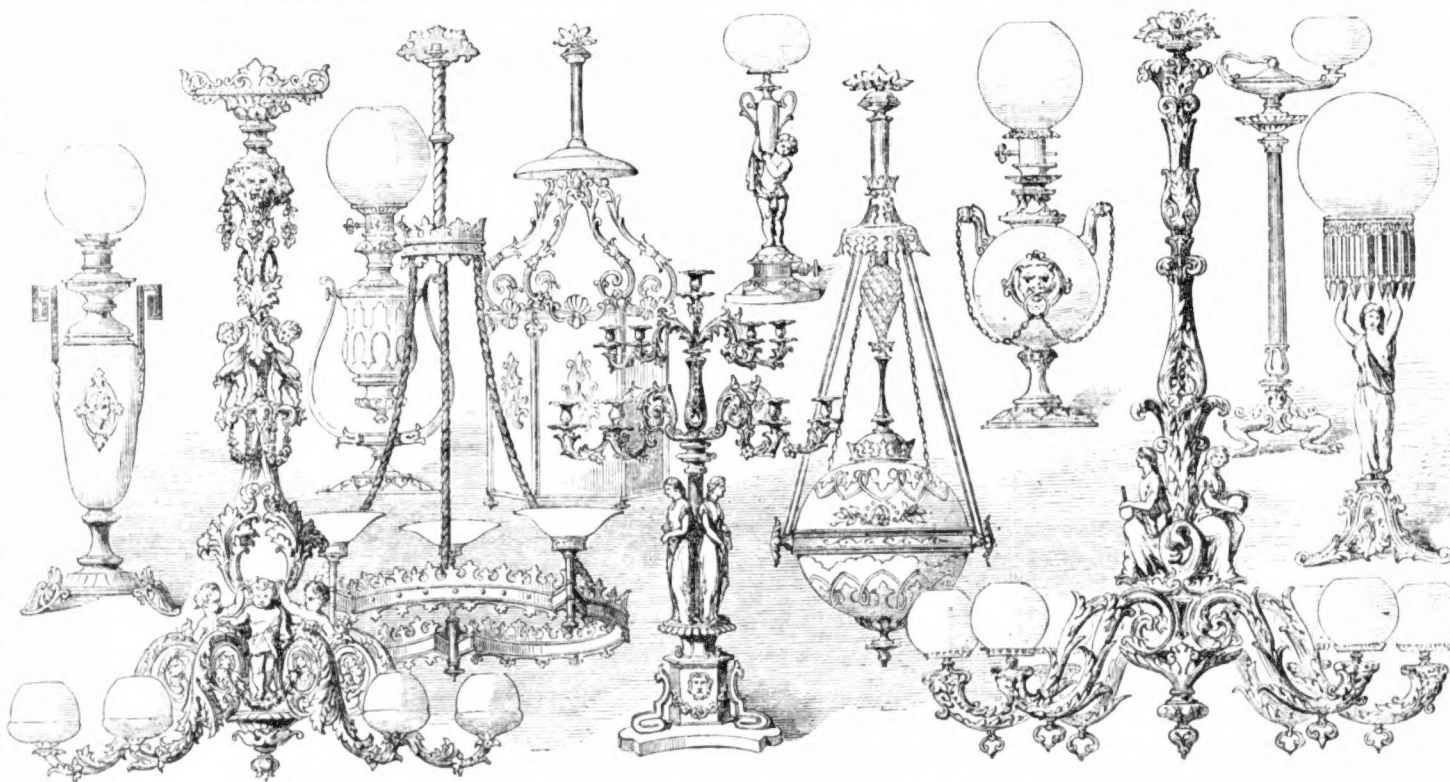
ARRIVAL OF KING VICTOR EMMANUEL IN THE GULF OF NAPLES.

THE WORKSHOPS OF ENGLAND.—NO. IV.—J. T. STROUD AND CO.'S LAMP, CHANDELIER, AND GAS-FITTING MANUFACTORY, BIRMINGHAM.



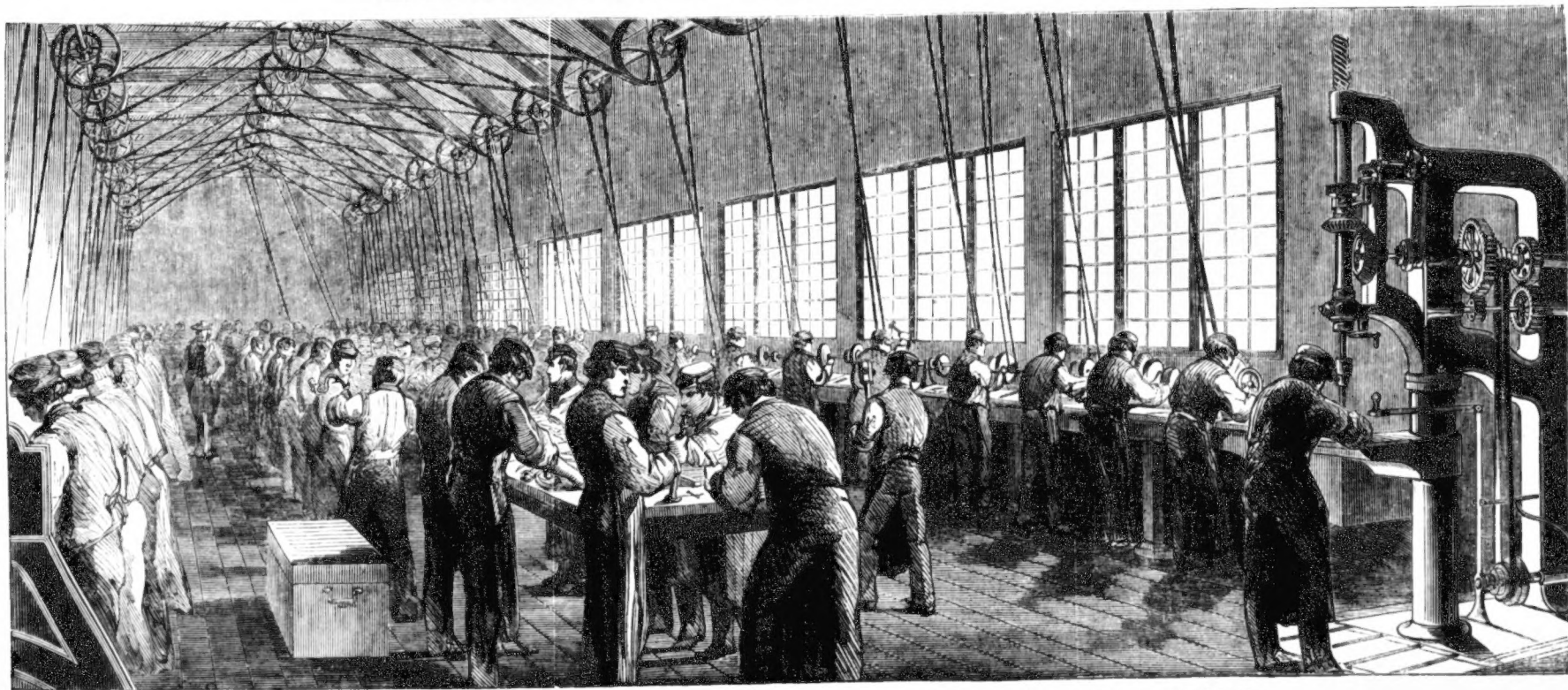
VIEW OF MESSRS. JOHN THOMAS STROUD AND CO.'S LAMP, CHANDELIER, AND GAS-FITTING MANUFACTORY, BIRMINGHAM.

AGAIN I find myself in the "hardware village" on a quest which bids fair to realise the fabled offers of the merchant mentioned in the story of Aladdin who went through the streets crying, "New lamps for old ones!" Leaving London by that unnaturally early train to secure which it is necessary to pass the previous night in a state of spasmodic wakefulness, I reach the North-Western station so much too soon that the great waiting-room looks blankly reproachful, and the discharged soldier, who has evidently been "making a night of it" in another way, and wears his shell-jacket open that he may expose his throat and chest to the chill air of dawn, seems strangely sleepless amidst the profound quiet of the yawning station. Continuing



GROUP OF CHANDELIERS AND LAMPS MANUFACTURED BY J. T. STROUD AND CO., BIRMINGHAM.

my broken slumbers in a jerky series, alternating with wakefulness and a sensation of general numbness at the extremities, I hear the final whistle which announces our approach to the New-street station, and, refreshed by a hasty but comfortable breakfast, to which I am conducted by the friend who awaits me with the cheerful serenity bespeaking a night of unbroken rest, I at once devote myself to the investigation of a subject which in its very nature requires to be luminously treated. But for unfounded objections to a discursive style, in what marvellous reminiscences might I not lose my too painful appreciation of the cobble-stone causeways of Birmingham back streets! To say nothing of candles, which would include all



LATHE-SHOP AT J. T. STROUD AND CO.'S LAMP, CHANDELIER, AND GAS-FITTING MANUFACTORY, BIRMINGHAM.

history and suggest lively parentheses ranging from the Jewish Tabernacle to Alfred the Great, the consideration of lamps alone would involve retrospective sketches of eminent characters, from Gideon to Mr. Winsor and the promoters of gas. The very mention of the latter, however, is a salutary check to wandering fancies; for it is principally of "gas-chandeliers" and some other modern appurtenances of artificial light that I have to speak; and here at the establishment of Messrs. Stroud a little district of workshops is busy with the dozen processes which are necessary to satisfy an ever-increasing demand for cheap and ornamental appliances of the various descriptions of illumination.

To speak of the manufactory as a little district of workshops is not very wide of the mark, especially as part of the buildings consists of two or three streets of houses which were bought as they stood and at once converted to their present purpose, their external features but little altered, their open doors and windows revealing forge, and anvil, and workbench, their long upper casements with no idlers lounging at the sills. Having been consigned to the courteous and intelligent guidance of the younger Mr. Stroud, I pass into the model-room in which various plaster casts of designs for ornament and branch hang upon the walls. The designing and modelling, however, are principally executed by a staff of outdoor artists; and casting from the models is, in reality, the operation which may be said to have the first place in the factory itself. A complete range of shops are occupied with the casting, and in each of them forge and mould are continually at work. The mould itself is a square frame mostly of iron filled with the peculiar dark red sand of the neighbourhood, which is pressed into a firm mass, in which the patterns of the casting are imbedded and their perfect shape impressed. The casters work at a large trough filled with the sand, and the workshop, with its forge, has some resemblance to a bakehouse where black bread is being kneaded in strange loaves. The first mould is made for casting what is called "the odd side" of the pattern—that is to say, in solid castings, the lower or inferior side—and this serves as a sort of pattern to which the moulder refers. The pattern being lifted off or out as soon as the sand mould is sufficiently solid, the whole surface, in which the chasing of the pattern is clearly defined, is dusted with bean flour or pounded "pot" first, and afterwards with loam, sand, charcoal, or coal-dust. This has the effect of making a smooth surface and effectually filling the interstices in the sand so as to prevent any raggedness in the casting. Each mould, or rather the two sides of the mould, are then placed near the furnace and slightly baked, a channel having been made in the edge of each for conducting the melted metal to the pattern. The two sides are then placed together and held firmly by their pins and sockets, and the mould is ready for the casting. The "pots," or crucibles of greyish clay, which turn red by the action of the fire, are in the furnaces like so many tall flower-pots. The dirty-yellowish brass ingots, made on the premises at a large mixing-furnace, having been first placed across the tops of the pots that they may expand before being melted, are about twenty minutes afterwards reduced to a molten mass, above which hovers a light sea-green flame mingled with streaks of brilliant colour like the water from a dyehouse; meanwhile, the moulds have been placed in a slanting position, with the opening in the side upwards, against a bank of sand or brickwork, and everything is prepared for pouring. A man, who should be strong in the wrist, stands on the furnace, which has the openings at the top, like a French cooking-stove, and, taking off the brick covers from the square aperture, whence rushes out a tongue of green flame lifts out the pot with a pair of tongs and hands it to the pourer, who fills each mould in succession. The fumes which rise from the midst of the coloured fire are peculiar and penetrating, and the zinc eliminated from the molten brass falls in a metallic snowstorm, its flaky particles adhering to everything with which they come in contact, while the resistance of the sand to the metal causes a series of reports like muffled pistol-shots.

The brass cocks and plugs used in gas-fittings are all cast in one central stem, like cherries on a stick, their hollow forms being secured by means of cores, made of hardened sand, placed in the shape impressed in the mould. These are broken off the central stem with a pair of pincers immediately after casting.

The ornamental "vases" and larger ornaments which form the body of ordinary gas chandeliers and lamps are shaped out of thin metal by a process called "stamping out," the plates of metal being placed on a hollow die, upon which a heavy hammer, or rather weight, is brought down, being released from a latch and worked by the foot. The depth of the casting would make so heavy a blow necessary that there would be danger of splitting the metal, an accident which is prevented by the introduction of a leaden shape and a layer of clay, which is decreased after each blow of the hammer until the proper depth is gradually secured without injury.

Ascending flights of steps, and turning all sorts of strange angles, I find myself in one of the most interesting of the shops which looks like an engineer's workroom, hung as it is with all sorts of metal tools and shapes of cast metal. It is here that they conduct the process called "reversing"—an operation which secures a hollow casting, the inner or hollow side being called the "reverse." For this purpose a mould is made from one in wax, and the impression in the mould hardened so that another model can be taken from it. This enables the moulder to secure a core which fits the impression in the mould as one cup would stand inside another; and between the mould containing the sunk pattern and that with the projecting core there are placed strips of black clay (previously rolled on a dirty pieboard), to secure sufficient thickness of metal, by not allowing the cup to be too accurately filled. The pattern when cast is "laid out" on a hollow hemisphere of iron filled with pitch, and the irregularities of the casting removed by hand tools. In the case of figures such as cupids, &c., forming ornaments for candelabra, the various limbs have often to be modelled in separate "cores," which are afterwards baked hard, and put together like a puzzle-map imbedded in the sand of the mould previous to casting. This requires great skill to effect successfully, and an experienced "reverser" is a man of mark in the factory.

The completed castings are now removed to the chasing-room, to which I follow them, and watch the gradual process of beautifying to which they are subjected, and the sharpening of the ornamental details by means of tool and graver, in a similar way to the first rough "laying out" which removes the irregularities of the pattern. It is in the chasing room, too, that I see those magnificent hall-lamps—great spheres of engraved crystal, encircled with a bronze meridian at which the globe divides—for which the firm are already so celebrated. The arms and branches which form a part of the gas-chandelier work, as well as many of the scrollwork lamp ornaments, are cast in halves, which are taken to be joined in the soldering-room, where a workman seated at a forge-like furnace heats them in the burning embers and applies to the edges the solder, with which is mingled a flux of borax and water to secure its melting. The heat is increased by a blowpipe, which is in reality a double or jacketed tube, the inner one supplying gas and the outer being connected with a large pair of bellows, and mixing atmospheric air with the lighted gas at the point of combustion.

From shops where a long series of lathes are perpetually turning for the manufacture of "threads," screws, and sockets, and the finishing of the various parts, I follow the progress of the castings through a yard where the great boiler lies like some mammoth monster asleep, pass up a flight of brick steps leading to the great chimney-stack, and find myself in the "pickling-room." Before this stage, however, the work is placed in a muffle or furnace-oven for the purpose of annealing, where it is also burnt with a flame which removes the particles of borax and the rougher part of the dirt.

The pickling-room is a large shedlike place filled with tubs, troughs, and earthen pans. Into one of these, containing diluted aquafortis, the metal is plunged for the purpose of removing the scale produced on the surface by the action of the fire; from this it is dipped in a stronger solution to undergo the process called "fizzing," and its final baptism in pure acid restores the beautiful primrose colour which properly belongs to it.

It is still dull, however, and goes to be "scratched," an operation effected by means of a revolving wire-brush, turned by a wheel

and treadle, and kept continually wetted with water. The ornamental processes have next to be visited, and these are many. Previous to burnishing, the work is dipped in argol or tartar (the lees of wine-casks steeped in water), so that it may be subject to a strong anti-oxide. The burnishing itself produces those bright veins and ornamental surfaces so often seen in chandeliers, and is effected by fixing the work in a vice and rubbing the parts of the pattern which are to be brightened with a steel tool having a smooth bevel-edge. After being treated with ox-gall, bean-flour, and acid, to remove any still-adhering grease, the work is dried by being first dipped in hot water and afterwards buried in a pan of warm sawdust. Then there is lacquering, both white and black, a simple process enough, since the lacquer is laid on with a brush and the work dried on a warm plate; and bronzing in various colours, of brown and green and gold.

I have already spoken of the lathes which turn the threads and screws. There are two long rooms devoted to this part of the manufacture, where all the small brass gas fittings are made and cut by machinery. Lathes, and horizontal motions, and circular cutters whirr and hum there as though a hundred bees were in full swing. To an unsophisticated mind, however, the most marvellous of all the engines is one which even while you stand watching it converts a single piece of straight wire into a complicated linked chain, or even, by a slight arrangement of its mechanism, to any one of three sorts of chains. To describe the process would be difficult. Let it suffice to say that the wire passing along a groove in the bed of the machine has a short length cut off, that by an artful contrivance of latches this length is caught, turned over, doubled, twisted, formed into a link, and that at the same moment the next section of wire has threaded it, and will in its turn, and while attached to its fellow, undergo the same process until a magical chain coils itself on the other side, and the straight line of wire reaches its last inch. These chains, which are part of the ornamentation, are used for supporting the chandelier weights. Those which are made of iron are taken to the depositing-room, there to receive a coating of copper or brass by means of electro-galvanism, and to be scoured in sand and water. The separate parts once completed, the entire chandelier is fitted together by experienced workmen and thoroughly tested as to its perfect soundness by means of a hand-pump, which forces water through every tube with sufficient stress to detect the slightest fissure. It is then measured in every part and thoroughly adjusted before being removed to the warehouse.

Although much of the machinery is admirable, and has presented considerable disappointments and enormous expense, and is but just perfected, there are, as will be seen, many of the operations which are conducted entirely by hand labour. Perhaps one of the most interesting of these is the preparation of the glass globes, reflectors, or ornaments which accompany the now completed lamp or chandelier. The arabesques, stars, running lines, vandykes, and often intricate traceries which appear on the more costly glass fittings of chandeliers and hall lamps are produced, without any previous drawing of the design, by grinding the glass itself on a wheel; that is to say, the workman, holding the glass in his hands, with no more indication of the pattern than two or three pencilmarks dividing the globe or plate, grinds out the pattern on a wheel of Craig Leith stone, guiding the brittle material by eye and hand with a precision and rapidly perfectly marvellous. I am very earnestly solicited to try my hand at grinding a star, but, fearful of consequences, I maintain a modest discretion. For the heavier work an iron wheel is used upon which wet sand is thrown, and, the pattern once cut, the globes or plates are polished on a wheel of wood. They are, of course, ground before being cut, and for this purpose are fixed on a lathe, where while revolving they are subject to the pressure of a bunch of wire dipped in wet sand, and passed over their entire surface. The gilding and painting, which, like the grinding, are effected without a previous pattern, and by the brush alone, need little description: the gold is burnished in the same way as the branches and ornaments.

Leaving the numerous hands, or rather pairs of hands, busy with the various operations of their craft, there remains only to see the pattern-room, a long upper-story warehouse, skylighted, and its walls and supporting beams and pillars hung with a forest of brazen leaves and scrolls and devices of a thousand forms, which look like strange foliage hanging dry and dusty under the summer sun.

This concludes my visit to the works, and I go to inspect the combined results in the multitude of cheap moderator-lamps, light but elegant gasburners, magnificent chandeliers of gold and bronze, and glass which are waiting to be sent away. Amongst the moderators there are some of superb and yet classical design, with an exquisite delicacy of finish and a beauty of colour which are far superior even to the gorgeous fittings of their more pretentious neighbours. The pattern-books, which are given to all in the trade who apply for them, are goodly-bound volumes of drawings, to produce which a complete staff of artists and engravers is employed. While looking at these and expressing some thanks for courteous explanations, it is scarcely matter for surprise to learn that Messrs. Stroud and Co. open a showroom in Hatton-garden for the season, and that during the present exhibition this branch of their establishment will be placed under the gentleman who has been my guide through the various processes of the manufacture. Since the time when the business was conducted by Sir John Raeburn improvements in machinery and greater facilities for experiment have enabled Messrs. Stroud and Co. to complete the manufacture of every description of lighting apparatus, and in their showrooms they might include them all, from the common French lamp to the elaborate chandelier of bronze gilding or electro silver—from the massy antique candelabra for the Gothic church or library to the patent diamond and other rack lamps intended to burn under the Indian punkah.

Coming away from Mr. Stroud's factory, I find myself wondering at the immense variety in the appliances of artificial light no less than at the number of means for obtaining the light itself. From the plainest and cheapest French lamps—to which a room is devoted under the superintendence of a French workman—ordinary, unpresenting gas branches, lamps of curious construction for the colonies, and severely modest chandeliers, to gigantic and elaborate structures for churches, libraries, public halls, and banqueting-rooms, all varieties have had a place in the processes which I have just witnessed, while the marvellous adaptations of machinery have effected an improvement in the production even of the cheapest amongst the ordinary gaslight fittings which should snuff out the old dip candle altogether and inaugurate a more cheerful era.

THE BIRMINGHAM MINT.

We have received a letter from Messrs. James Watt and Co., of Birmingham, apprising us that in our article descriptive of Messrs. Heaton and Son's mint, contained in No. 571 of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES, we committed an error in stating that the contract for the 1720 tons of new copper coinage was obtained from the Government by Messrs. Heaton and Son, whereas the fact is that the contract in question was really entered into with Messrs. Watt and Co. We are given to understand, however, that, owing to some delay or other difficulty in carrying out this contract, the Government sought the assistance of Messrs. Heaton and Son, who were engaged during a period of several months in the production of the new bronze coinage, for which they were paid at a higher rate than Messrs. Watt and Co.'s contract price.

Both firms, we believe, are engaged in producing the new coinage for the Kingdom of Italy. Messrs. Heaton and Son, however, have by far the lion's share in the matter, for we are informed that they have a direct contract with the Italian Government to supply it with upwards of 350 millions of coins, and have had the Royal Mint of Milan placed at their disposal for this purpose.

MR. EDMUND FALCONER, lessee of the Lyceum Theatre, has sent a cheque to the Lord Mayor for £141 19s. 6d., the amount of the gross receipts of a benefit performance given there in aid of the fund for the relief of the unemployed operatives in Lancashire; and also £10 3s. 6d., subscribed for the same purpose by a few of the members of the Lyceum company.

AWFUL TRAGEDY IN MANCHESTER.

ON Friday morning week a fearful tragedy occurred in Manchester. A respectable and aged gentleman was stabbed to death, a young man was seriously injured by a pistol ball, and three children of the murderer had been previously deprived of life.

Mr. Evan Meller, about fifty-five years of age, occupies an office in conjunction with his son, as estate agents, on the second floor of a building in South King-street, on which level are two other unoccupied offices. About nine o'clock on Friday morning a tall man, named Robert Taylor, the keeper of a provision-shop in Strangeways, went to the office, accompanied by his wife. Taylor was provided with a large knife, used for cutting bacon in his shop, and a six-barrelled revolver. At a quarter past nine Mr. Meller arrived, when Taylor plunged the large knife into him, and followed the first stab with several others on the right and left side of the abdomen. The blood on the floor marks the spot where the assassin first attacked his unsuspecting victim. He made a rush down stairs, but fell exhausted on the next landing. Mr. Leatherbrow, a brewer's agent, who occupies offices in the same premises, together with John Hooley, his porter, hearing a scuffle, instantly ran to the spot, and were in the act of raising up Mr. Meller, when Taylor, as if fearing that the stabs might not prove fatal, discharged one barrel of a revolver at him, but the ball struck the arm of Hooley, and then lodged in his knee. Mr. Meller, jun., next ran down to the landing, when Mrs. Taylor snatched the pistol from her husband and presented it at him. In all probability young Mr. Meller owes his life to the circumstance that she had not taken the precaution to cause the barrels to revolve, and consequently was only pulling the trigger for the empty barrel. Mr. Meller, sen., immediately became unconscious, and expired in a few minutes, but he and the wounded young man (Hooley) were immediately conveyed to the Royal Infirmary, where the pistol ball was extracted from Hooley's knee.

Taylor and his wife made no attempt to escape, and were taken into custody by Sergeant Bateman, a detective officer. Taylor told Bateman to go to his house, giving him a bunch of keys, and telling him coolly that in a bedroom he would find something. Bateman went, accompanied by another officer, and there they found three children lying dead upon the floor. Each was clothed in a white night-dress, and on the breast of each a label, on the back of which was written the name and age of the child, and on the front the following inscription written in a bold hand:—"We are six, but one at Harptry lies, thither our bodies take, Meller and Son are our cruel murderers; but God and our loving parents will avenge us. Love rules here. We are all going to our sister, to part no more."

The children bore no external marks of violence, and the present conjecture is that they have been suffocated; and it is difficult to avoid the suspicion that the wife as well as the husband is inculpated in the dreadful deed. The house was in a state of desolation, as if frenzied hands had been at work. The paperhangings on the walls are daubed with black, the balustrades broken, and the doors smashed.

At half-past ten o'clock the prisoners were placed before the city magistrates, the room being densely crowded. When the officer called out "William Robert Taylor and Martha Taylor," they both stepped up firmly to the bar. The male prisoner is a tall man of about thirty-five, with black beard and whiskers. He looked perfectly collected, had a deep scowl of revenge upon his countenance, and exhibited no indication of remorse. His wife, who wore a brown cloth mantle and a small straw hat with ostrich feathers in it, appeared quite indifferent. She is not the mother of the three children, but neither he nor she manifested the least emotion when the sad story of their being found dead was recited. She displayed much anxiety, however, to have a basket containing sponges, brushes, &c., which she had left in the office of Mr. Meller, returned to her. This, of course, was not complied with, and these articles, together with the stomachs, &c., of the murdered children, have been submitted to analysis by a local chemist, but without any traces of poison being discovered. An opinion, however, having been expressed that this analysis had been made too hurriedly, the viscera have been forwarded to Professor Taylor for further examination.

Sergeant Bateman stated he was that morning suddenly called to South King-street, where he found the prisoners in custody, and took them to the Townhall. Taylor said, "Thank God! I have now finished my work." At the prisoner's request he went to his house, No. 5, Britannia-buildings, Strangeways, and in a back bedroom found three children lying dead on the floor. He returned to the detective officer, where the female prisoner said she was Taylor's wife. He asked if those were her children that were dead in the house, and she gave no reply. He then asked the male prisoner if they were his, and he replied that they were. The officer produced a six-barrelled revolver, and said that five barrels were still loaded, one had been discharged. The presiding magistrate (Mr. Ellison) asked Taylor if he wished to say anything, to which he replied, "I wish him to hand to the magistrate the papers he found in the room." (This referred to the labels put on the children.) The female prisoner remarked, as if little concerned, "I have nothing to say." They were then remanded to Monday, on which day the inquiry was again resumed, when evidence confirmatory of the above statement was adduced. Both prisoners conducted themselves with the greatest coolness, the male prisoner cross-examining some of the witnesses with a view to show that he had been badly used by Mr. Meller in connection with the house in Strangeways. The investigation of the case is not yet concluded.

The only motive that has been assigned—and it is confirmed by the allusions in the inscriptions upon the children—is to the effect that, about Christmas last, a kitchen-boiler exploded in Taylor's house, and killed one of his children—a girl. Mr. Meller was the agent who let the house, and Taylor, considering him to blame for the injury, applied to him several times for some compensation, asking, it is said, £500. He refused to acknowledge any such claim; and it would seem that since then the parents have been meditating vengeance. Their shop has been for some time closed, and the interior of the house damaged. The words, "We are six," included the parents and four children. "But one at Harptry lies" is explained by the circumstance that Harptry is a cemetery on the north-east side of Manchester, where the girl killed by the explosion was buried.

The fact of the three children being destroyed before the murder of Mr. Meller was attempted led most persons to believe that Taylor must be insane; but both he and his wife having gone deliberately to the spot and exhibited such mutual coolness when the deed was accomplished, has caused many to change their opinion, and to conclude that the act was caused by a feeling of deliberate and determined revenge. Taylor inquired after Hooley, and expressed deep regret that the ball should have hit him, adding, "I wish I could have killed Meller's two sons, and then I should have been satisfied."

The previous career of Taylor accounts for the strange manner in which he and his wife have abstained from mixing in the society of their neighbours and the life of seclusion they have been living. It appears that he was at one time a schoolmaster at Dunster, Somersetshire, and misbehaved himself in some way that lost him the appointment. At Crediton he was traveller for five years to a respectable firm, but was apprehended and tried at the Devonshire Winter Assizes, held in Exeter in 1859, on a charge of aiding a servant girl to procure abortion, and was acquitted. After his acquittal he became a traveller to an Exeter wine merchant, but was discharged for embezzlement. In 1861 he was a wine and spirit merchant at Bideford, North Devon, obtaining goods on promissory notes. Before the notes became due, however, he had sold the goods to realise money, and absconded. He was married in March, 1861, to Martha Giles (his present wife), the daughter of a farmer at Wincanton, in Somersetshire. He was afterwards charged with forging a bill of exchange in the name of his father-in-law. He was brought before the magistrates on this charge on the 22nd of May, 1861, but appears to have been discharged, and on the 10th of June, 1861, he is known to have been in Manchester. Of his wife, who is a very handsome woman, little is known beyond her devotion to her husband and his late children (who were by his first wife). It was stated in evidence that after the murder she tried to persuade the police that she, and not her husband, had committed the horrible crime. In the dock, she seemed to regard everything he did and said with affectionate interest, and it is believed would readily sacrifice her life to save his.

ITALY AND GARIBALDI.—Signora Jessie White Mario delivered her first lecture in St. James's Hall on Tuesday last to a large and appreciative audience. The chair was taken by Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P., and on the platform were Mr. Stanfield, M.P., Mr. Grant Duff, M.P., and many others, among whom were several ladies. In the body of the hall were Mr. Monckton Milnes, M.P., Mr. A. W. Kinglake, M.P., Mr. Stirling, M.P., Signor Mazzini, Signor Saffi, Mrs. Milner Gibson, and many other persons of distinction. The lecture was admirably delivered, and listened to with marked attention. The next and last lecture will be on Tuesday the 27th inst., when the chair will be taken by Mr. James Stanfield, M.P.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The first grand flower show of the season took place on Wednesday at the society's gardens, when, notwithstanding the rain, the tents were densely thronged with a distinguished company, amongst whom we recognised the Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Mary, and the Duke of Cambridge. The roses were of extraordinary beauty and fragrance, the chief exhibitors being Messrs. Paul, Lane, Francis, and Terry. The azaleas, rhododendrons, pelargoniums, stove plants, and orchids were also of splendid quality, and were much admired. The heats were not, perhaps, quite so good as they have been seen in former days at Chiswick, where the Cape heath was a more favourite flower than at the present day. Amongst the objects which attracted most attention was a fine collection of young Japanese plants collected by Mr. J. G. Veitch, and also some magnificent specimens of Japanese woods, highly polished, and strikingly adapted for ornamental marquetry. In the second tent a magnificent collection of American plants, which are now just breaking into bloom, arrested the attention of the majority of the company. We understand that they are to form an exhibition of themselves on the 30th inst. A noticeable feature in the day's arrangements was the laying out, in compartments, of a portion of the arcade for flowers grown up in a conservatory.

PROFESSOR STERNDAL BENNETT has presented M. Sauton the manuscript score of his ode written for the opening of the exhibition, elegantly bound, as an expression of his sense of the great care and ability with which M. Sauton conducted the performance of his work in the emergency caused by the refusal of Mr. Costa.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE murder at Manchester, of which we give the details in another column, approaches more nearly to the high tragic type of that species of crime than any on record for many years. A century or so hence, when the manners and customs of this present day will have become matters of some theatrical interest, this sad story will probably be dramatised by some sensation-hunting playwright delighted at finding a plot ready to his hand. The murdered man is essentially a development of a class, of the class of small landlords. He is not new to our records, and most newspaper readers may yet remember the indignation evoked by the conduct of this man, who caused the death of an innocent child by neglecting one of the most necessary of domestic repairs in his own house, occupied by his own tenant. We are not attempting to vindicate even in the slightest degree the fearful retribution by which this unfortunate proprietor has been overtaken. But, as a psychological study, it is not uninteresting to trace crimes from cause to effect and to regard them rather as consequences than as inexplicable aberrations. In this view the despair of the wretched criminal may be traced from the period when his landlord and subsequent victim, instead of attempting to compensate the results of his own mistaken economy, sought to drive away his injured tenant by pressing him harshly for the rent which his misfortune rendered him unable to pay. Every scrap of furniture was sold out under distress. It may be true that he was offered, as reported, a discharge from the rent on condition of leaving the premises, but when he sought to avail himself of this alternative it was rendered impossible by the bad character given him as a tenant by the landlord. There was nothing before the man but the workhouse for himself and his children. The course which he chose, at once to revenge his own fancied wrong, and to place his infants beyond the reach of worldly misery and infamy, is told in the harrowing story before us. In long-past times, under a different moral code, the murderer might have been regarded as the Romans looked upon a Virginian. With our improved civilisation, it will be mercifully argued that the prisoner must be mad. But, although homicidal mania might be pleaded as an excuse for a single criminal, there is no case yet on record—nor is this likely to be a precedent—of two persons, even a husband and wife, being found insane with respect to a jointly-planned and premeditated homicide, even although the same influences may have equally driven both to desperation.

A comical swindle is said to have been recently carried out with success. A respectable-looking man went to a butcher's shop at the busiest time on a Saturday night. He selected a prime leg of mutton, which was handed to him by the shopman outside, who watched him into the shop, and, seeing him place it in due course in the scale, turned, as usual, to attend to other customers. Says the supposed purchaser to the shopkeeper, "I want to ask you a favour. I've bought this in the next street, and I think the fellow who sold it has cheated me in the weight. Will you be kind enough to weigh it for me?" The butcher stands agast with indignation. "Why, you impudent vagabond! You buy your meat elsewhere, and then have the face to ask me to weigh it! I've a mind to kick you out! Be off out of the shop instantly!" The customer leaves, muttering apologies, but he takes the mutton, which the shopman, supposing it to be paid for, allows him to carry off unquestioned. The master and the man have to settle the matter between them afterwards.

It was reported in a newspaper paragraph that another attempt is to be made to prove Mr. W. P. Windham insane. The cause alleged was curious enough—namely, that Mr. Windham had procured a mal-cart, which he drives himself to the post-office in order to procure his letters! This absurd paragraph has, however, been contradicted.

The amount of nonsense and absurdity which the educated Briton may be persuaded to treat with respect has seldom been better exemplified than in a recent reply in the House of Commons by the Home Secretary. That gentleman was questioned with respect to the late shameful sentence whereby a child of nine years was condemned to three months' imprisonment in default of payment of a fine of £5. Our readers may remember the case. The crime charged was poaching, and it was proved only that the child found a snare in a hedge and removed it. Sir George Grey stated that

The magistrates, in considering the amount of the fine they should impose upon the boy, were actuated by the knowledge that he was acting as the instrument and at the instigation of his parents, and though the fine was nominally imposed upon the boy, it was intended practically to be imposed upon them. The magistrates believed that the parents had ample means to pay the fine, and they were induced to that belief by the fact that members of the same family had within the last five years been convicted twenty-four times, either before the bench of magistrates or the County Court, for breaches of the game laws, or assaults connected with poaching.

So that, firstly, we see a prisoner found guilty of an offence is fined in order to punish somebody else who has not been tried. Secondly, that while the fine is practically imposed upon the untried person or persons, it is not attempted to justify the terrible sentence of three months' imprisonment as an alternative upon an infant who is supposed to have acted merely as the tool of others. And, thirdly, that a monstrous sentence upon an child is excused upon the ground of former misdemeanour, including assaults by "members of his family"—a term vague enough to include his aunts, grandmothers, or cousins of any degree. The justification of a conviction for "poaching" on proof of the removal of an empty snare is not even pretended. The full absurdity of the conviction might be paralleled, were it possible, if a metropolitan magistrate were to find a child guilty of burglary for picking up a skeleton key in the street, sentence him to be whipped—in order to distress the parents—and allege as an excuse that "members of the family" of the little prisoner had occasionally been punished for drunkenness and assaults. But the House of Commons, not perhaps altogether disinterested upon the question of game-preserving and in their support of the country-justice system, not only listened patiently to this lame apology for a defence, but rewarded it with an approving "Hear, hear!"

A well-mobman, repeatedly convicted, was once more charged at Bow-street, his offence being picking pockets. The magistrate wished to send him for trial as an "incorrigible rogue and vagabond," in

which capacity he had previously been sentenced at Kingston to twelve months' imprisonment. A former conviction as a "rogue and vagabond" was necessary for the purpose of the present committal, and the Kingston conviction was put in. To this prisoner's attorney objected that the last named was a conviction against prisoner as an "incorrigible rogue and vagabond," whereas the proof required was of a conviction without the adjective. The magistrate thought the objection might be valid, and therefore remanded the accused until a former conviction as a rogue and vagabond unqualified could be discovered. This was soon found, and the prisoner stands committed for trial.

POLICE.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE.—Inspector Griffin came before Mr. Woolrych, with Captain Thomas Armsbury, master of the British ship Colleen Bawn, and said the captain had sought his advice and assistance under singular circumstances.

Captain Armsbury said that he had just arrived from Porto Rico, and that he wished to deliver to the authorities here two seamen, named Louis Nelson and Joseph Stein, that they might be forwarded to the United States to give evidence against the captain of an American ship who had murdered one of the crew of the Colleen Bawn.

Mr. Woolrych: Where is the alleged murderer? Captain Armsbury: He was sent by the American Consul at Porto Rico to the United States for trial.

Mr. Woolrych: It is very extraordinary indeed that the alleged culprit, charged with murder, should be sent to America and the witness to England. The witnesses ought to have accompanied the prisoner. It is the strangest thing I ever heard of to send a man for trial to America without witnesses, and send the witnesses here.

Captain Armsbury said that three of his men went on board an American ship in the harbour of Porto Rico on a visit to some Americans there. Two only came back alive. The deceased was shot by the American captain and killed. I gave information to the English Consul, and he had an interview with the American Consul, who caused the captain of the American ship to be placed under arrest, and sent to America, there to be tried.

Inspector Griffin: I believe, your Worship, that the three seamen were leaving the American ship, and the captain fired at them, and shot one. He fell into the water, and his dead body was recovered and taken on board the Colleen Bawn.

Mr. Woolrych said the best thing for Captain Armsbury to do was to put himself in communication with the American Consul.

Captain Armsbury—The English Consul made me enter into a bond to deliver the two seamen to the authorities here, and I have them on board the Colleen Bawn.

Mr. Woolrych—I cannot take charge of them. I have no authority to do so. You had better address yourself to the American Consul immediately.

In reply to a question, Captain Armsbury said the American captain was sent to Newhaven (Connecticut), not in his own ship, but another.

Mr. Woolrych—Well, I have no power to detain the two witnesses, but I have no doubt the American Consul will do what is just and proper in the matter, and take care there is no failure of justice.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

ATTEMPT money continues abundant for discount purposes, the business done in Home and Indian Securities this week has been very moderate, and prices have had a dropping tendency. Consols, for Money, have marked 92 1/4; Reduced and New Three per Cent, 91 1/4; India Bonds, 94 1/4; Exchequer Bills, 104 1/4; 105 per Cent, 104 1/4; 106 per Cent, 104 1/4; 107 per Cent, 104 1/4; 108 per Cent, 104 1/4; 109 per Cent, 104 1/4; 110 per Cent, 104 1/4; 111 per Cent, 104 1/4; 112 per Cent, 104 1/4; 113 per Cent, 104 1/4; 114 per Cent, 104 1/4; 115 per Cent, 104 1/4; 116 per Cent, 104 1/4; 117 per Cent, 104 1/4; 118 per Cent, 104 1/4; 119 per Cent, 104 1/4; 120 per Cent, 104 1/4; 121 per Cent, 104 1/4; 122 per Cent, 104 1/4; 123 per Cent, 104 1/4; 124 per Cent, 104 1/4; 125 per Cent, 104 1/4; 126 per Cent, 104 1/4; 127 per Cent, 104 1/4; 128 per Cent, 104 1/4; 129 per Cent, 104 1/4; 130 per Cent, 104 1/4; 131 per Cent, 104 1/4; 132 per Cent, 104 1/4; 133 per Cent, 104 1/4; 134 per Cent, 104 1/4; 135 per Cent, 104 1/4; 136 per Cent, 104 1/4; 137 per Cent, 104 1/4; 138 per Cent, 104 1/4; 139 per Cent, 104 1/4; 140 per Cent, 104 1/4; 141 per Cent, 104 1/4; 142 per Cent, 104 1/4; 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